

FEBRUARY 8, 1991

sanjani seek
ter deal
women

ch seize
kg of coca

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State James Baker told Congress Wednesday that the task of ousting Iraq from Kuwait is "formidable," and said the fight against Iraq's military machine will be very costly.

Mr. Baker said the United States was trying to wage "a just war in a just way," trying to minimise damage to civilians and to religions and cultural sites.

"The task is formidable," he said, "and no one should underestimate Iraq's military capabilities."

Mr. Baker did not predict how long it may take to force the reversal of Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, or give any hint when in allied ground offensive might begin. But he vowed to maintain the devastating drive to oust the 100,000 Iraqi troops.

Mr. Baker warned Iraq not to make use of its stockpile of chemical and biological weapons.

He did not say what actions the United States might take if Iraq and such weapons. "They could be both political and military," he said.

Mr. Baker said, hinting that President George Bush might try to move Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from power.

Tuesday, Mr. Bush announced he was sending his top military advisers to Saudi Arabia to discuss the war's next stage, and said he doubted the air war would be sufficient to rush Iraq from Kuwait. He said he was prepared to make the decision to commit troops to a ground war.

'Palestine a mere dream' — Nusseibeh

PARIS (R) — A leading Palestinian nationalist arrested in Israel for allegedly spying for Iraq said in an interview published Wednesday that the notion of a separate Palestinian state was no more than a fantasy. Sari Nusseibeh, who was arrested last week on suspicion of passing information to Iraqi intelligence via the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), told the weekly Jeune Afrique magazine that the Palestinian cause would inevitably be undermined by the Gulf war. Mr. Nusseibeh, interviewed in occupied Jerusalem days before his arrest, predicted Israel would emerge from the war strengthened against a weakened and divided Arab World. "Israel will be able to push forward its own solution (to the Palestinian problem) — autonomy for the (occupied) territories," he said. "The Palestinians, who will be in a desperate position, will be more open to that." Mr. Nusseibeh said his people's struggle for a Palestine state would end in an impasse.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية "الراي"

Volume 16 Number 4620

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7-8, 1991, RA JAB 22-23, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Allies step up air assault

King: This is a war against all Arabs and Muslims, not Iraq alone

Jordan calls on Arabs to demand immediate ceasefire

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein, sharply criticising the allied forces fighting Iraq in the Gulf war, Wednesday described it as a conflict to destroy Iraq and called on Arabs to demand a ceasefire. "As developments of the war have proved, they want to destroy Iraq to prepare the situation in the region in a much more dangerous way for our nation's future and present," King Hussein said in a televised speech.

He accused foreign powers of plotting to carve up the resources of the Arab World and to control it politically.

"This war is a war against all Arabs and all Muslims and not against Iraq alone," the King said.

King Hussein also assailed the U.S.-led alliance for killing women and children.

"What shame is going to follow those who are accepting the bloodshed of Iraq's elderly, children, men and women in the flames of this unjust war," the King said in his first address to the nation since the war erupted

Jan. 17.

"The King called for an immediate ceasefire and a U.S.-Iraqi dialogue as well as Arab-Arab talks.

He criticised the United Nations, saying it had failed to act when the Western allies went beyond their mandate in launching a "savage war aimed at destroying Iraq's existence."

The King said raids were destroying mosques, churches, hospitals, milk factories and water networks, "returning Iraq to primitive life."

"The true aim behind this devastating war, as its size stands today and as statements made by its parties affirm and as the course of events have shown, is to devastate Iraq," he said.

The King said the conflict was aimed at changing the balance of power in the post-war Arab World.

"The nature of this active military alliance against Iraq reveals its short and long term goals," he said.

"When Israel is supporting this

alliance and when there are two countries, one Islamic and one Arab, in normal political relations with Israel... then it is easy for us to realise that this war is a war on all Arabs and Muslims and not just on Iraq," he declared.

The King said the post-war divisions in the Arab World would be far more dangerous than the 1916 agreement that carved up the region between France and Britain.

The Sykes-Picot accord divided the former Ottoman province of Syria into three parts, the French receiving Syria and Lebanon and the British Palestine and Iraq.

King Hussein said Israel would be the main beneficiary of the new post-war era in the region and would set limits in solving the Palestinian problem.

"There are already signs that the spoils are being divided," he said.

"There is talk of proposed military alliances and foreign troops that will stay on Arab soil, of conditions that will handicap



our progress; of a solution for the Palestinian problem which has been prepared or which will be prepared by others according to what they see..." he said.

The King accused allied forces of trying to force Jordan to kneel, clearly alluding to the allied attacks on Jordanian oil imports from Iraq and Saudi Arabia's decision to cut off oil to the Kingdom.

"There were new attempts to

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq reports 150 civilians, including 34 children, killed

Combined agency dispatches

ABOUT 150 PEOPLE, including 34 children, were killed by an allied air raid overnight on the southern city of Nassariyah, Iraqi authorities said Wednesday.

It was by the far the largest death toll reported by Iraq in a single raid since the Gulf war began Jan. 17.

Iraqi officials gave few details about the raid, but said many homes were hit.

Travellers arriving in Baghdad from Nassariyah reported that the city came under intensive bombardment Tuesday night. They said military and industrial targets were hit, and huge columns of smoke rose over the city.

The government daily Al Thawra reported that 349 people

have been killed in the southern port city of Basra since the allied raids began.

Previously, Iraq announced 428 civilians had died in the allied air attacks.

Iraqi officials said allied bombs and missiles rained down on Baghdad overnight, smashing a bridge, hospital, communications centre and homes.

Baghdad Radio said U.S. President George Bush had lied when he said he did not seek the destruction of Iraq.

It said the allied raids "targeted all the scientific, economic, and cultural installations, went beyond that to target medical installations, places of worship, and sacred sites, and went even further in their criminality to hit residential areas..."

"They want to expel Iraq from the 20th century," said the radio. It vowed that the campaign would fail and that the Iraqi people would exact revenge.

"What remains is for Bush and his accomplices in crime to understand that they are personally responsible for their crime. The Iraqi people will pursue them for this crime, even if they leave office and disappear into oblivion," it said.

"There is no doubt that they will understand what we mean if they know what revenge means to the Arabs," said the radio.

It said the allies wanted to destroy Iraq's infrastructure but "they will not be able to destroy the Iraqi creative mind."

"They can murder women, children and the elderly, but they

will not be able to uproot the Iraqi people... they will not be able to break its independence and free will."

Allied forces continued to rain bombs and shells on Iraqi troops and cities Wednesday and knocked out a key bridge across the Tigris River in Baghdad.

Baghdad, a city of four million, has come under daily air attacks since the Gulf war started Jan. 17.

The air raids have cut communications and electricity and caused acute water shortages.

There has been no overall figure of civilian casualties mainly because of the collapse of the telephone system.

One of the few diplomats still

(Continued on page 5)

Baker: Tough times ahead

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State James Baker told Congress Wednesday that the task of ousting Iraq from Kuwait is "formidable," and said the fight against Iraq's military machine will be very costly.

"The military actions now underway necessarily involve many casualties, great hardship and growing fears for the future," he said in testimony to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives.

"Tough times lie ahead."

Mr. Baker said the United States was trying to wage "a just war in a just way," trying to minimise damage to civilians and to religions and cultural sites.

"The task is formidable," he said, "and no one should underestimate Iraq's military capabilities."

Mr. Baker did not predict how long it may take to force the reversal of Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, or give any hint when in allied ground offensive might begin. But he vowed to maintain the devastating drive to oust the 100,000 Iraqi troops.

Mr. Baker warned Iraq not to make use of its stockpile of chemical and biological weapons.

He did not say what actions the United States might take if Iraq and such weapons. "They could be both political and military," he said.

Mr. Baker said, hinting that President George Bush might try to move Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from power.

Tuesday, Mr. Bush announced he was sending his top military advisers to Saudi Arabia to discuss the war's next stage, and said he doubted the air war would be sufficient to rush Iraq from Kuwait. He said he was prepared to make the decision to commit troops to a ground war.

Some lawmakers, concerned about the prospect of large American casualties against a ground force, have urged the president to rely on the war for several more months.

Looking ahead, Mr. Baker said he was to station a permanent ground force in the Gulf to "stabilise" the region. He said it would be under U.N. command and made up of local troops.

Also, he said, the allies should consider steps to constrain Iraq's rebuilding weapons of mass destruction and potent conventional weapons.

Iran explores prospects for peace, awaits Iraqi response

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, pushing ahead with efforts to mediate in the Gulf crisis, told France Wednesday it would not tolerate the continued presence of foreign forces in the region.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said French President Francois Mitterrand telephoned President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani as Iran's foreign minister held talks on the Gulf crisis with visiting Soviet and Turkish ministers.

"I have sent a message for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and I am awaiting his reply to start my (peace) initiative," IRNA quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as telling Mr. Mitterrand.

"Our stand towards the 'Persian' Gulf crisis is crystal clear, and that is we are opposed to

Kuwait's occupation and the presence of multinational forces in the region.

"We believe that the territorial integrity of Iraq and Kuwait should remain intact. We are gravely sensitive to the remaining of foreign forces in the region and will not tolerate it," said Mr. Rafsanjani, who has kept Iran neutral in the conflict.

Mr. Mitterrand said he hoped the conversation could be a starting point for cooperation on international matters, IRNA said.

"Iran's role in the recent catastrophe can be determining and decisive. We attach great importance to this," Mr. Mitterrand said.

French troops are stationed in Saudi Arabia as part of the U.S.-led anti-Iraq coalition and French

fighter planes regularly attack Iraqi positions.

"Foreigners cannot be messengers of peace," IRNA quoted Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati as telling Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Kucukbaba Alptemucin.

Turkey, a NATO member bordering both Iran and Iraq, has been criticised in the Iranian press for helping in U.S. air raids on Iraq and accused of eyeing oil-rich regions of northern Iraq (see page 2).

"Turkey casts no covetous eye on even an inch of Iraqi territory and Iraq's boundaries should remain intact," IRNA quoted Mr. Alptemucin as saying.

The minister said on arrival in

(Continued on page 3)

Soviet general: U.S. is overkilling

MOSCOW (R) — A Conservative Soviet general accused the United States Wednesday of overkill in trying to destroy Iraq.

"They planned to conduct one military operation that would destroy Iraq completely. But they have already used three times the amount of bombs necessary for one operation," Major-General Viktor Filatov said.

Gen. Filatov, editor of a Soviet monthly magazine on military affairs, was addressing a forum organised by Palestinian diplomats.

He attacked the record of former Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze who voted in favour of a United Nations resolution allowing for all necessary means, including force, to be used to secure Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. Mr. Shevardnadze

resigned on Dec. 20.

"I think that during the history of Russia and the Soviet Union we have never had such an incompetent foreign ministry as we had under Shevardnadze," he said.

Oleg Fomin, a press adviser to the Communist Party Central Committee, told the forum President Mikhail Gorbachev should do whatever was necessary to stop the Gulf war.

He charged that the United States with setting out to destroy Iraq and its people.

"Americans stand with one foot in Panama and another foot in Riyadh and they speak about human rights," Mr. Fomin said.

"This just shows their duplicity. The statements at the forum echoed those published earlier this week by the Communist Par-

ty, which called on Mr. Gorbachev to launch a fresh political initiative to end the war.

A statement issued Monday said the party central committee had urged the Soviet leadership "to take the necessary additional steps before the international community and the United Nations to end the bloodshed."

Palestinian Ambassador Nabil Amr told the forum that the Communist Party was a "reliable friend," and he blamed the United States for the Gulf war.

"The United States with all its forces will try to destroy the Middle East... we must remember that the Middle East shares borders with the Soviet Union," he said.

(Continued on page 5)

Syrian role purely defensive — Sharaa

LONDON (Agencies) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said Wednesday his country would not participate in any allied attack against Iraq but ruled out a ceasefire unless Iraq withdrew first from Kuwait.

Mr. Sharaa, arriving in London for the first visit by a senior Syrian official to Britain in more than four years, said his country's role within the U.S.-led coalition in the Gulf would remain purely defensive.

"These forces are under the command of the Saudis and certainly these forces would not be involved in an operation inside Iraq, and we regret that there are continuing operations inside Iraq," Mr. Sharaa told reporters at Heathrow airport.

"We hope the fighting will cease as soon as possible because

we do not like to see further destruction or casualties. But at the same time we think stopping of military operations should be based on an Iraqi withdrawal.

Syrian forces in Saudi Arabia Monday were engaged in their first military action against the Iraqi army in Kuwait after coming under attack for the first time since their deployment following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Syria's support for the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq has helped improve its relations with the West after years of isolation.

Mr. Sharaa met Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd for a working lunch, the first ministerial contact since Britain severed relations more than four years ago over Syria's alleged involvement in an attempt to blow up an Israeli airline on a flight from

London.

The two countries restored relations last November.

Mr. Sharaa said he would discuss bilateral relations between Syria and Britain, adding: "I would like to achieve some progress in developing these."

He also said he wanted to discuss the Gulf war and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Sharaa told reporters that Britain, as a permanent member of the U.S. Security Council, could play "an active role in contributing and pushing" for an international Middle East peace conference to settle the Palestinian question.

Mr. Sharaa said, "If we want a stable and peaceful Middle East, then the Arab-Israeli conflict should find a comprehensive and just settlement."

Baghdad severs ties with U.S. allies

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI ANNOUNCED it was severing diplomatic ties with the United States, Britain, France, Italy, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Baghdad Radio said a Foreign Ministry statement also urged other Arab and Islamic countries to follow Iraq's lead and break relations with the six countries.

"We call on the nationalist regimes in the Arab Homeland and the governments of Islamic states to take the same step of severing diplomatic relations with the states of the American-Atlantic aggression and the Arab regimes allied with them," the statement said.

The statement said the war pitted Iraq and the Arab and Islamic nations against an alliance of "imperialists, Zionists and their mean traitor agents." It said the United States had hampered all Arab efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Britain, Italy and France said they had not received any formal notification of the reported break in relations. There was no immediate reaction from the United States, Egypt or Saudi Arabia.

The Iraqi statement said the allies were seeking to "dissuade Iraq from its independent, liberating course."

It said that since Aug. 2, the day it invaded Kuwait, Iraq "has been careful in dealing with the development of the situation in the Arabian Gulf region within the framework of the Arab family and in a manner that fulfils the supreme pan-Arab interests, without any foreign interference."

"The U.S. administration has worked from the beginning to hamper all Arab efforts or solutions for what is called the Gulf crisis. It has used the two ruling regimes in Riyadh and Cairo as a means to implement its conspiratorial and aggressive scheme against Iraq and the Arab Nation," it added.

Warplanes from all of the countries except Egypt have taken part in the relentless bombardment of Iraq and Kuwait that began on Jan. 17. Egypt has sent troops to join the multinational force confronting Iraq but has not yet been involved in any of the combat that began on Jan. 17.

Iraq has called the leaders of the United States, Britain, France, Italy and Saudi Arabia war criminals responsible for the savage bombardment that Iraq says specifically targets civilian and residential areas.

Drivers report continuing attack on Iraq-Jordan desert highway

From John Rice (the Associated Press) at Yedoda and Jane Araf (Reuters) at Ruweishad

TRUCK DRIVERS carrying oil from Iraq said Wednesday that allied warplanes have attacked them with missiles, machine guns and mines, but they vowed not to quit their mission.

Drivers also said that U.S. planes were now rocketing traffic at random along western Iraq's desert highway.

The drivers denied that their convoys has any link to the Iraqi military and said they would continue risking the aerial attacks to keep open Jordan's economic lifeline.

"We know we might not come back, but we still have to help our country," said driver Adif Abu Yassin.

Faris Hussein, another driver, described an attack last Saturday on an Iraqi highway.

"One of the guys in front of me, his truck exploded. So I stopped my truck and ran 200 metres," Mr. Hussein said. "I saw the airplanes come down and

shot at the trucks a first time, then they came back... I saw a rocket fired from a plane at my truck and it blew up."

Mr. Hussein said none of the drivers were injured in the half-hour-long attack.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Tuesday that allied planes had killed seven Jordanian drivers, wounded 11 and damaged at least 31 tanker trucks.

"I am unarmed. Why are they bombing me?" driver Mahmoud Mousa shouted at a reporter.

Jordan has protested the attacks to the United States and to the United Nations Security Council, arguing that U.N. officials had given it permission to import oil despite a U.N. embargo on trade with Iraq.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Tuesday the shipments were, in fact, "a violation of the sanctions, of course... but to bomb the trucks, I think that is a little too tough a deci-

sion."

Mr. Badran told a parliamentary committee that Jordan will continue importing Iraqi oil until the U.N. Security Council can find his country an alternative supply.

His cargo leaking from a hole and six of his tanker's 22 tyres punctured by shrapnel, driver Ahmad Mahmoud told Reuters the U.S. air force was "patrolling the highway with bombs."

One of the four tankers in his convoy failed to reach the border crossing point at Al Ruweishad.

His driver, Yousef Zayyoud, was injured in the eye during an air attack on Tuesday afternoon and the tanker got stuck in a crater, Mr. Mahmoud said.

"We kept driving. We could not stop because the planes were still bombing us..."

"I am not a military truck. I am not carrying ammunition. But they (allied planes) hit us at random as though they want to

(Continued on page 5)

Frustration, anger seen behind bid to block Saudi-bound trucks

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A convoy of Turkish and Syrian trucks carrying goods — mostly food items — to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states were attacked Wednesday by angry Jordanians at the border town of Ramtha who were protesting against a Saudi ban on Jordanian trucks, police reports and witnesses said.

According to a police statement, the incident started around noon when a crowd gathered near the border post, about 100 kilometres northwest of Amman, and prevented "the trucks from continuing their trip..." The statement described the vehicles as "non-Jordanian."

Witnesses said some of the trucks were damaged and some food items were removed from several refrigerated vehicles but police intervened to disperse the crowd.

Mohammad Dardur, a parliament member from the Irbid Governorate who rushed to the scene, said he and fellow Irbid Deputy Salim Zoubi intervened with the crowd but "it took some time before the situation was brought under control."

The police statement, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, did not give the number of people or trucks involved. But Ramtha residents rescued by phone estimated the crowd at 400 and the trucks — both Turkish and Syrian — at around 60.

"Many Syrian trucks were not intercepted at all," said a town

resident. "Turkey's participation in the war against Iraq also seemed to have fuelled the people's angry mood," he said.

The official statement said the crowd "responded to calls by the local authorities and officials who warned against endangering the freedom of transit trade through the Kingdom."

The statement also appealed to the public "to exercise self-restraint and act with responsibility, particularly at this difficult situation facing the country," but also warned that "strict measures would be adopted to ensure law and order."

Mr. Dardur said at least two people — one of them trying to drive one of the trucks "back to the customs centre," and another "who appeared to have made an accident" — were detained. He said he did not have further information. A security source said no-one remained in custody.

The deputy attributed the incident to "frustration with the situation in the transport sector" over truck owners and drivers forced to be idle as a result of the de facto blockade on Jordan and "anger over the death of one Ramtha driver (in the allied attacks) on Jordanian oil tankers driving between Iraq and Amman."

A resident of Ramtha was among the seven Jordanians killed in last week's allied raids on Jordanian tankers carrying Iraqi oil to the Kingdom.

"Why should others be allowed to carry goods through Jordan to the Saudis while we Jordanians

are not allowed to enter Saudi Arabia?" asked an angry resident of Ramtha, whose population is dominated by people relying on the transport sector for a living.

Mr. Dardur said an organised group or party was involved in the disturbances and said: "People are really frustrated and disappointed as well as angry over the entire situation."

He said he did not expect any recurrence of such incidents.

"We have promised the people to convey their grievances to the prime minister and also told them that violence was not the answer to the problem," said the deputy.

"Law and order should be respected and violence is the wrong way to do things."

Informed sources said it was agreed that the vehicles would proceed on their trip across the Kingdom after repairing damages wherever necessary. One source said the government would pay for the repairs, which were described as "light."

The Saudi ban against Jordanian trucks and import of Jordanian produce is one of several measures adopted by Riyadh in response to Jordan's position on the Gulf crisis. The ban, in effect on and off since October, followed a cut-off in Saudi oil supply to Jordan, and an order to reduce Jordan's diplomatic presence in Saudi Arabia. Subsequently, Saudi Arabia also banned the return of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates — in addition to nationals of several other Arab countries seen as supportive of Iraq.

Iranian papers warn Turkey against exploiting war

NICOSIA (AP) — As Officials in Tehran awaited the arrival of Turkey's foreign minister, Iranian newspapers warned Ankara Wednesday against exploiting the war in seize oil-rich Iraqi territory.

The Farsi-language Jomhuri Islami said: "All countries, especially Iraq's neighbors, are expected to contribute to containing the crisis."

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Kocak was expected to arrive in Tehran Wednesday for talks with Iranian officials aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the war.

Also on Wednesday, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov met with his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Vaezi about ways of containing the conflict.

Iran has maintained strict neutrality in the conflict, but is concerned that if Turkey becomes more directly involved in the war then Tehran could be dragged in.

So far, Turkey's chief involvement has been to allow allied forces to use NATO base at Incirlik, 700 kilometers from the frontier, for bombing raids on northern Iraq.

Iran suspects Turkey of supporting the allied cause for the purpose of expanding its own territory by seizing the northern Iraqi provinces of Mosul and oil-rich Kirkuk flowing an allied victory.

Recent reports in the Turkish press have not put their minds at ease. Ankara appears to hope that a defeated Iraq will be divided and ruled by a federation of Turks, Kurds and Arabs.

"The Iranians would prefer a weakened Iraq, and not a powerful U.S. ally on their borders," said Shireen Hunter, an analyst with Washington's International Institute of Strategic and International Studies.

"Iran feels that after the war Iraq will be on the menu, and because of its good relations with Washington, Turkey will be invited to the dinner party, but Iran will not," she said in a telephone interview.

Turkey could claim the territory which has a large Turkmen minority and belonged to the Ottoman empire until after World War I. In 1926 it became part of British-mandated Iraq.

But the English-language

Tehran Times warned Turkey against increased involvement in the war.

"Opening a new front by Turkey against Iraq will not serve Ankara's long-term interests," the newspaper said, adding, "launching a ground assault to capture the oil-rich Kirkuk region ... will not have positive results for Turkey."

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani has offered to mediate a peaceful solution to the crisis and said he would be willing to meet with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and contact officials in Washington.

He also sent a message to Iraq containing an "idea" for peace. There has been no indication of a response from Baghdad.

Although no details of the message were revealed by Tehran, a London-based Kuwaiti newspaper said Mr. Rafsanjani proposed a seven-point plan that would involve a ceasefire then simultaneous withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and the allied forces from Saudi Arabia.

The plan would be proposed at an Islamic conference convened in Baghdad by Iranian leaders, the Voice of Kuwait newspaper said without citing any sources.

Coalition Arabs 'unaware'

Iran has not informed three principal Arab partners of the anti-Iraq coalition about its initiative to end the Gulf war, top Arab officials said.

The foreign ministers of Egypt and Saudi Arabia and the Kuwait foreign ministry's second-ranking official said they've received no details of any Iranian plan. They met with President Hosni Mubarak before speaking with reporters.

Sheikh Nasser Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait said he saw Rafsanjani in Tehran Tuesday night and was told only that Iran still demands that Iraq quit Kuwait and Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah's government be restored.

"I have not been informed about the Iranian initiative, but during my meeting with President Rafsanjani he emphasized his country's neutrality," he told reporters.

An Iranian official at the United Nations said no detailed

proposal exists yet, but in general the initiative hinges on Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. Sheikh Nasser repeated Wednesday that his country will accept nothing less.

In Washington, President George Bush said Monday he had seen no Iranian peace plan and had nothing to negotiate with Iraq. But the Soviet Union and Turkey have signaled support to the Iranian initiative.

Both Sheikh Nasser and Prince Saud Al Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister, gave Mr. Mubarak letters from their heads of state. Prince Saud said King Fahd's message followed up on a meeting between the two leaders in Saudi Arabia last week.

The Saudi official arrived in Cairo from Damascus where he met with President Hafez Al Assad.

Prince Saud's host, Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid of Egypt, said new-found close ties among Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia "is the basic foundation for the future."

Kuwait's government in exile praised Iran Wednesday for its neutrality in the Gulf war but did not mention Tehran's recent peace efforts.

"The council of ministers hails the firm stand and the strong ties between Kuwait and the Islamic Republic of Iran," said Information Minister Badr Al Yacoub, referring to the declaration of neutrality.

He spoke after the toppled cabinet met to consider a report from Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Sabah, the minister of state for foreign affairs, who conferred with President Rafsanjani this week in Tehran and gave him a message from the exiled Emir.

The Kuwait News Agency, which carried the statements, said Mr. Yacoub did not mention the Iranian peace initiative.

The agency said that Foreign Minister Yusuf Ben Alawi of Oman met with the Emir and said later that it was "too late" for peaceful initiatives. Oman has been a persistent advocate of peaceful solutions to the crisis.

"The correct initiative that the world should take are to convince Iraq to abide by U.N. Security Council resolutions to pull out from Kuwait and that Iraq remain within its borders," he told the agency.

U.S. believes Republican Guard remains strong

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The United States and allied military forces in the Gulf have not substantially weakened Iraq's crack Republican Guard units, the New York Times, quoting U.S. military officials, reported Wednesday.

After almost three weeks of heavy allied bombing, Iraq's 140,000 elite ground troops were still well-entrenched in northern Kuwait and southern Iraq and remained combat-effective, the newspaper said.

Unidentified military official told the newspaper that despite the constant air barrage, approximately 10 divisions of the Republican Guard and army tanks units remained substantially intact with well-dispersed underground depots and supply lines.

Iraqi tank losses were in the "low hundreds, but (Iraq) has got 5,000" one official said.

The U.S. carpet-bombing campaign against guard positions had been largely ineffective against those tanks and artillery pieces that require direct hits to be destroyed, the newspaper said.

Iraqi armor was widely dispersed and therefore remained substantially intact, the New York Times said.

One military official told the newspaper the U.S. bombing campaign had not "reduced (Iraqi) President Saddam Hussein's ability to re-supply his theatre forces."

"It is still, substantially, the fighting force it was," the official said to Iraq's military strength.

"I have every reason to believe that the Republican Guard can still be employed as an effective fighting force and it has not yet been substantially degraded. That is not to say air power has failed, but there is still a lot of work to do."

At a Pentagon briefing on Tuesday, Lieutenant General Thomas Kelly said the United States was still in the process of assessing bomb damage against the guard, which is trained for offensive and unconventional warfare tactics.

None of the more than 800 Iraqis taken prisoner by the allies so far is a member of the Republican Guard. The units are understood to be deployed well behind the front-line forces, the U.S. official said.

Radio an elusive target

Knocking Baghdad Radio off the air permanently is all but impossible, U.S. officials said concerning the broadcasts Iraq use to inform and encourage civilians and to verbally attack the United States.

"It is much more difficult than destroying a radar site or a dam," said one military source, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We can take out their antennas, but somebody can string up a network of wires somewhere else. Transmitting is something you can do in a closet."

Another military official said allied air forces attacked Iraqi radio targets in the early days of the war "with some success." But he added that "you can take out a main tower, and they can install another on a roof of a building powered by a generator."

He said the Iraqis are probably using civilian buildings where they will be safe from air strikes. "You could hang laundry from the wires during the day" to camouflage equipment, he said.

The first official said short wave transmitters capable of reaching outside Iraq are probably located in several places and, if damaged, can be restored to operation in a matter of days.

Lebanese army troops move into south for first time since 1975

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (R) — Government troops moved into South Lebanon for the first time since 1975 on Wednesday, taking up positions within sight of Israel's self-declared "security zone."

Their deployment was part of the government's drive to heal the wounds of 15 years of civil war.

Witnesses said about 2,500 soldiers in trucks and armored personnel carriers rumbled down the southern coastal highway between the ports of Sidon and Tyre.

They also moved into the town of Nabatiyeh — on the southern edge of the Iqlim Al Toufah area sheltered for more than four hours by Israeli gunners earlier in the day.

The troop movements, cheered on by thousands of Lebanese lining the streets, were part of the government's attempt to extend its authority across the country.

One Lebanese position south-east of Nabatiyeh was less than two kilometers from the buffer strip set up by Israel in 1985.

Israeli warplanes swooped over the south as the troops fanned out.

Israel has hundreds of troops in its nine-kilometer-deep buffer zone and has refused to withdraw them to allow the Lebanese army

to take full control of the south. Israeli forces and their South Lebanese army militia allies shelled villages just north of the "security zone" before dawn.

Security sources said shells crashed into villages in Iqlim Al Toufah after guerrillas fired five Katyusha rockets into the zone in retaliation for Israeli air raids on Palestinian strongholds on Tuesday which killed at least seven people.

Palestinian guerrillas fired dozens of rockets at the strip over five consecutive days last week. Palestinian sources said the rocketing was aimed at opening a symbolic second Gulf war front against Israel in support of Iraq.

The Lebanese army command said in a statement: "The army has begun implementing the government's decision to extend its authority over the south. An army brigade headed to the south and took positions there as planned."

It said the deployment would continue on Thursday by moving into Iqlim Al Toufah area and Tyre.

"We have been waiting for this moment for a long time. It is a great day for the south," Ahmad Fattah, a 45-year-old restaurateur, told Reuters.

"We pray only the weapons of the army will prevail from now on," he said.

Israeli activists urge Gulf ceasefire

TEL AVIV (AP) — In the first sign of dissent against overwhelming Israeli support for the Gulf war, a small group of Jews and Arabs on Wednesday urged an immediate ceasefire between U.S.-led forces and Iraq.

"The horrible price of their war is paid by ordinary people," said a petition signed by 100 Israelis that was presented at a news conference by a new group called "Enough."

The petition condemned Iraq's missile attacks on Israel but added that it opposed the Gulf war.

"What we have to say is not popular but we have to say it. Some thought this would be a 'short war' but it seems it is going to last a long time, maybe months," said Hashem Mahamid, an Israeli-Arab legislator and former mayor of Umm Al Fahm.

"If the war is not stopped immediately, we are going to see this area turn into a desert," Mr. Mahamid added.

The petition demanded a ceasefire monitored by the United Nations and an international peace conference to resolve Israel's conflict with the Palestinians — both steps opposed by the Israeli government.

It also urged making the Middle East free of nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons.

After decrying the war's effect on ordinary people, the petition said, "We Israelis have already paid our part. The price in blood will grow higher and higher the longer the war lasts. We believe this madness can and should be stopped."

The activists also urged Israel

to continue staying out of the war despite 30 Iraqi missiles aimed at the Jewish state that have killed two people and injured 270 others.

Mahamid called on Israel to lift a blanket curfew on 1.7 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, enforced since the war's outbreak on Jan. 17.

Mr. Mahamid said that on a visit to the West Bank town of Jenin last weekend he "met families who are hungry... because they cannot go to work to earn money for food."

Professor Yeshayahu Leibowitz, a prominent Jewish scholar and left-wing activist, said the war "would not resolve what he called Israel's 'existential problem' — the Palestinian issue."

Leibowitz said this reality "won't be changed in the least by the Gulf war, no matter what the results are."

Unless Israel and the Palestinians reach a land-for-peace compromise, he added, "We will have war to the bitter end, not only with the Palestinians but with the entire Arab World, from Morocco to the Persian Gulf."

The protesters of "Enough" represent a tier segment than usual of dissent against government policy, as most Israeli left-wingers either support the war or are silent.

Last week a group of prominent peace advocates, including novelists Amos Oz and A.B. Yehoshua, announced they had to dissent with peace movements in other countries opposing the war. They said that Iraq's war machine must be stopped.

War to cost \$2,624 for average American family

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Gulf war will cost the average American family of four at least \$2,624, the consumer group Public Citizen said Wednesday.

In a study by Princeton University economist James P. Love, the organization estimated the total cost of the U.S. war effort, including the cost of economic sanctions against Iraq that continue in effect, at \$164 to \$268 billion.

Most of the cost would be incurred by the end of the 1991, but some would stretch over a period of several years, Public Citizen said. The bills that would come

due later would include replacement of munitions and the costs of occupying and rebuilding Iraq or giving aid to other countries.

The pre-capita cost would be \$656 to \$1,072, Public Citizen said.

The lower figure is based on a low-cost war amid low world political tensions, with a short occupation, the group said. The high figure is for a high-cost war accompanied by greater tensions and a very difficult occupation.

President George Bush omitted war costs from the budget he submitted to Congress Monday,

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

70% of French think world war possible

PARIS (R) — Seven out of 10 French people think the Gulf conflict could degenerate into world war three, according to an opinion poll published Wednesday. The poll, by the BVA group for the weekly magazine Paris Match, gave no indication how those responding thought a world war might break out but 70 per cent said it could happen. A total of 27 per cent did not believe a world conflict would result from the Gulf war, while three per cent had no opinion. The poll said 43 per cent of French people believed Israel might use nuclear weapons and 21 per cent thought the United States might resort to them. The survey showed 12 per cent of those questioned avoided public places and public transport for fear of bombs and eight per cent went out less in the evening for the same reason. Some 44 per cent thought France's influence in the Middle East would be weakened in the future, compared with 33 per cent who said it would be reinforced. The poll also showed 55 per cent agreed with military censorship of the media during the conflict.

Turkey asks Iraq to reduce personnel

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey has asked Iraq to reduce the number of Iraqi troops in this country, including diplomats, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday. Spokesman Murat Sungan told reporters during a weekly news conference that the Turkish request was relayed to the Iraqi embassy here Monday. Mr. Sungan said Turkey made the "suggestion" because political contacts between the two neighboring countries have declined as a result of the Gulf crisis. Turkey has taken a strong pro-U.S. stand in the crisis and allowed U.S. bombers to carry out raids on Iraq from a base in southern Turkey. Mr. Sungan said about 70 Iraqis were employed in Turkey, including people working at Iraqi schools, at a joint oil pipeline terminal in Yumurtalik and at diplomatic missions in Ankara and Istanbul. Mr. Sungan refused to give further details. But a government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Iraq was asked to reduce its personnel in this country by one-third.

Israel restores Newsweek credentials

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli authorities have restored the press credentials of Newsweek's bureau chief in Israel, suspended because the weekly magazine printed a photograph violating military censorship. The Israeli government press office said Wednesday that it had restored Theodore Stanger's accreditation Tuesday after it became clear the picture in the magazine's Feb. 4 issue came from a Sygma photograph agency. "As soon as we received a letter of apology from sygma for violating military censorship we restored Stanger's accreditation," said Yossi Olmert, head of the government press office. The press office, which withdrew Mr. Stanger's credentials on Friday, was studying whether to take steps against Sygma, he added.

Achille Lauro convicts released

GENOA, Italy (AP) — Two Palestinians convicted of helping the hijackers of the Achille Lauro cruise ship have been released from prison early and expelled from Italy, their lawyer said. The two men, Mohammed Issa Abbas, a cousin of Palestinian Liberation Front leader Mohammed Abbas, and Youssef Sa'ad, said Genoa lawyer Gianfranco Pagano. He said both benefited from an Italian law allowing a reduction of two years for eligible convicts at Christmas time. They were released from prison on Christmas eve and were to leave Italy within 15 days, Pagano said. The two departed for Algeria about two weeks later, he said.

Ethiopian Jewish leader immigrates

TEL AVIV (R) — Ethiopia's oldest and most venerated Jewish leader "immigrated" to Israel Tuesday saying his dreams had come true. The 86-year-old Kase or spiritual leader, in a white robe with gold trim and matching turban, flew to Israel with 223 other Ethiopian immigrants. Smiling a toothless smile, Kasse Menasse asked: "Am I in Israel. Are these all Israelis?" Told yes, he dropped a silver cane and fly whisk and jumped up and down saying: "All my dreams have come true." Ethiopian Jews are moving to Israel at the rate of 1,000 a month after the recent renewal of diplomatic relations. Some 24,000 have arrived and 18,000 are waiting for permission to come.

Bush says war not costing him sleep

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush acknowledged Tuesday he was not losing any sleep worrying about the wisdom or course of the Gulf conflict. "I know what I've got to do, I've got very good people helping me do it. I don't really lose sleep," he said. Mr. Bush, speaking at a White House news conference, laughed off reports that he was bothered by protesters who have pounded drums in front of the White House since before the Gulf war began.

Pollisario: 2,000 Moroccans desert

PARIS (R) — Two thousand Moroccan soldiers serving in the Western Sahara have deserted and surrendered to the Algerian army, a spokesman for Polisario guerrillas said in Paris Wednesday. There was no immediate independent confirmation of the report. The spokesman said the soldiers gave themselves up on Tuesday near Mahbes which faces the Algerian town of Tindouf across the border.

Iraq's shelters can house 2 million

TOKYO (R) — Baghdad could carry on the Gulf war for two years, helped by an underground network of bomb shelters that can take more than two million people, a Japanese architect was reported on Wednesday as saying.

"I think that you may find that more than half of the buildings erected in 1981 or later in Baghdad have shelters," architect Takaaki Hashida was quoted as saying in the widely-read weekly magazine Themis.

"At present, Iraq has shelters capable of accommodating more than two million people. Ten per cent are resistant against nuclear assaults," Mr. Hashida said.

The 46-year-old architect, who runs an office in Tokyo, said he built four shelters in Baghdad between 1981 and 1984.

"The shelters I designed were resistant against nuclear attacks. Even if they get hit by nuclear weapons or chemical weapons, they are designed so those within can survive for four weeks," he added.

"The anti-nuclear shelters can withstand a one-megaton atomic bomb unless they suffer a hit within about two kilometres," he was quoted as saying.

Somali rebels: Loyalists routed in northwest

NAIROBI (AP) — Rebels say they have crushed troops loyal to ousted Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre who had regrouped in a northwestern town.

A radio broadcast by the rebel Somalia National Movement (SNM) late Thursday said the loyalists were beaten in daylight fighting in an around Borama, a town near Ethiopia's border in the northwest.

"The town was heavily shelled by SNM fighters before they entered and engaged the enemy," said the broadcast. "The enemy force was destroyed, while others surrendered and many were wounded."

The broadcast was monitored in Nairobi. It was impossible to immediately verify the claim.

The broadcast said SNM lost 12 dead and 20 wounded, but gave no casualty figures for the loyalists nor any indication of their strength.

The fighting Tuesday occurred two days after the SNM claimed it had taken control of all administrative roles in the northwestern regions.

Mr. Siad Barre, who had ruled the northeastern African nation of 8 million people for 22 years, fled the capital, Mogadishu, Jan. 26 when rebels of the United Somalia Congress (USC) stormed his palace.

Mr. Siad Barre's whereabouts remain unknown, but Somali exiles in Nairobi claim he is holed up among his clansmen, the Maheraan, along the border with Kenya in the south.

The SNM began serious fighting in 1988 and is oldest of the groups that waged war against Mr. Siad Barre. It is not represented in the interim government of President Ali Mahdi Mohammad installed Sunday in Mogadishu.

However, Prime Minister Omar Artch Ghaleb, a former foreign minister who was jailed for years by Mr. Siad Barre, is a member of the Isaqa clan from the SNM draws its main support.

The USC draws most of its support from central Somalia's Hawiye clan.

Mohammad Rohleh, the London-based USC spokesman, Wednesday welcomed the SNM victory against the loyalists.

"Although they are not represented in the government, they played a major role in overthrowing the former regime," Mr. Rohleh said in a telephone interview.

"We expect them to play a role in the future of our country."

Mr. Mahdi Mohammad government has proposed a meeting Feb. 28 for a provisional government that will organize general elections.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

PRAYER TIMES	
06:00	Fajr
06:22	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:30	Dhuhr
14:51	Asr
17:18	Maghrib
18:37	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetfish Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terraviva Church Tel. 622506	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 622511	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771591	

WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be partly cloudy and relatively cold.	
Area	Min/Max Temp.
Amman	2 / 11
Aqaba	9 / 20
Deserts	0 / 13
Jordan Valley	8 / 18
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 10, Aqaba 22. Humidity readings: Amman 56 per cent, Aqaba 13 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Tayseer Saeidi	777636
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awwad	946070
Dr. George Sabouni	776751
Dr. Isam Hawandich	624650
Fedons pharmacy	661912
Fedons pharmacy	670551
Natrouk pharmacy	625672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945

Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
IBRD:	
Dr. Mahmoud Khalil	()
Al Saana's pharmacy	(275825)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Musa Odch	()
Complaints	985417
AMMAN:	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence	600341
Civil Defence Emergency	199

Ressae Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775123
Highway Police	845402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630521
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	()
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	667111
Telephone Information	()
Directory assistance	121
Orchestra Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	623101

Mallat, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	849545
Al-Musharraf Hospital	667221/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajiroun	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Atrashah	775111/26
Amy, Minata	891611/15
Queen Aila Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)863323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)91071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
IBRD:	
Princess Beama Hospital	(02)275535

Palestinian council appeals to Kaifu

AMMAN (J.T.) — In a letter to Prime Minister Toshikazu Kaifu of Japan, the Palestine Council of Higher Education in Jerusalem appealed to the Japanese government to reconsider its recent decision of allocating \$9 billion to the U.S.-led war effort in the Gulf.

The council said that as education is the development of the human and natural resources in the area, and expressed their concern that this area is currently witnessing the erosion and the destruction of these resources.

The council added that since Japan had placed peaceful development of its people and economy at the center of its national concern rather than involving itself in the destructive arms race, the council appeals to the government of Japan to use its considerable economic resources to serve the same goals on the international level too.

In its letter, the council also urged Japan to take the lead in pledging its resources to alleviate the human and environmental damage caused by the Gulf war and to process of reconstruction after the war is over. Japanese resources could be well used to save millions of lives rather than contribute to their destruction.

The council also referred to the educational and development difficulties that face the Palestinians under occupation. It cited, as an example, the three-year closure of the universities, and the continuous detention of students and faculty members, the last of which was the detention of Dr. Sari Nusseibeh, professor of philosophy at Birzeit University.

The council appealed to Japan and the nations of the world to pledge their efforts to peace rather than war in the Middle East.

Agricultural exports drop

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's agricultural exports dropped by 22,500 tonnes last month over December and 38,250 tonnes over January 1990, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO).

According to the bulletin, only 11,000 tonnes of products were sold last month at the total price of JD 2,355,000, with vegetables accounting for 89.2 per cent of the total exports.

The AMO report said that Lebanon bought more than 52 per cent of the total exports, while the markets of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Europe imported the rest.

The bulletin also said that Jordan last month imported 2,321 tonnes of vegetables and fruit from other countries. These imports included onions, garlic, and apples among other things. It said that in January 1990, the Kingdom imported only 3,116 tonnes of fruits and vegetable mostly apples, oranges and onions.

Japan approves \$450m soft loan to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Japan has informed the Jordanian government of its decision to offer the Kingdom a soft loan amounting to \$450 million to help it overcome the present economic difficulties resulting from the Gulf war.

Japan's Ambassador to Jordan Tadayuki Nomiyama informed Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah of the decision at a meeting held at Amman Wednesday, one day after the Japanese government in Tokyo announced its final decision on the amount of the loan.

Japan last autumn offered Jordan \$250 million soft loan also as part of its assistance to the country in view of the economic difficulties.

The total amount of the \$700 million loan will have a one per cent annual interest and can be repaid over a period of 30 years with a 10-year grace period, according to Ministry of Planning sources.

Minister Abdullah last month paid a week-long visit to Tokyo to discuss Japan's economic and financial assistance to the Kingdom.

During his visit, Abdullah had meetings with officials from the Japanese Exim (export-import) Bank, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japanese Fund for Overseas Economic Cooperation as well as government ministers whom he briefed on the current situation in the Kingdom, the impact of the Gulf crisis on Jordan and discussed economic cooperation between the two countries.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Planning, the Jordanian government had embarked on procedures with the Japanese government and other Japanese lending institutions to finalise the terms of the loan agreement prior to the disbursement of the loans.

The European Community for its part had earlier announced an allocation of \$200 million as a financial assistance to Jordan to help it confront the current situation and overcome the present economic difficulties.

Israel prepares to enter war — Abed Rabbo

AMMAN (J.T.) — The director of the information department at the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said here Wednesday that he had sufficient information that the Israelis are preparing to take active part in the Gulf war on the side of the Western coalition and that the U.S.-led forces will soon launch a ground attack on Iraqi troops in Kuwait.

Addressing a press conference in Amman, Yasser Abed Rabbo, who is also a member of the PLO's executive committee said that the allied forces are about to open the second front on Iraq to impose their will on the Iraqi people and the Arab Nation.

Such attack is an aggression not only on Iraq but on the Palestinians as well, the PLO official said.

Referring to his meeting with His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday evening, Abed Rabbo said that the two-hour meeting was dedicated to discussing the looming "Israeli danger" on the one hand, and Israel's continued inhuman policies designed to evict the Palestinians from their homeland on the other. Abed Rabbo delivered a message to King Hussein from PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Referring to the situation in the countries allied against Iraq for said that 1.7 million Palestinians are being subjected to inhuman treatment under the blanket curfew which started since the beginning of the Gulf war on Jan. 17.

The Israeli government is also facilitating the departure of Palestinians from their homeland and barring those outside from returning home in a drive to evacuate the Arab territories, Abed Rabbo added.

Abed Rabbo revealed that 400 Palestinian citizens living in Kuwait fell dead or injured by the constant allied air raids on Kuwait where 200,000 Palestinians live at the moment.

Abed Rabbo appealed to the Arab countries that deployed troops alongside the Western coalition in Saudi Arabia to pull out from the conflict, and help bring about a ceasefire to pave the way for a peaceful settlement.

In a separate statement, Dr. Saadi Dabbour, spokesman for the popular committee for supporting Iraq in the face of foreign aggression appealed to Algeria and Libya to stop oil and gas shipments to Western countries.

We ask all Arab and Islamic countries to express their condemnation of the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq by boycotting all the allied countries against Iraq for they intent on destroying an Arab country, and its people, Dabbour said in a statement Wednesday.

For the past 20 days, the allied forces have been maintaining their aggression on Iraq and committing crimes against the innocent civilians and the economic and social centres of Iraq. Dabbour urged the world community to help stop this aggression on Iraq and demanded that Arab and Islamic countries condemn the U.N. Security Council resolution which opened the way for the aggression.

Jordanian company to sue U.S. government

By Nermeneh Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A prominent Jordanian pharmaceutical company intends to take the U.S. government to court over naval interception of a shipment of special equipment to manufacture chemicals for raw medicine which was imported by the company for its own use in Jordan.

Samir Darwazah, the director of Al Hikma Pharmaceuticals in Jordan, told the Jordan Times that he was informed by the American authorities that their shipment of equipment and spare parts for a factory of medicinal chemicals was "barred from entering the Aqaba ports" by naval forces patrolling the waters in the area.

Darwazah added that his company received reports of a news item on American television which claimed that the U.S. has "stopped a shipment of chemicals destined for a Jordanian company because it was heading to chemical weapons factories in Iraq," in an apparent reference to the same case.

"We will take the American government to court and we will follow this case because it is interrupting our work under false pretences," Darwazah said.

"We are not a country at war and our work in our factories is none of their business," he added.

The captain of the ship that was carrying the shipment, according to Darwazah, "will testify in court that an American officer is the person responsible for halting the shipment."

Al Hikma is a private shareholding pharmaceutical company based in Jordan and it is recognised as one of the largest manufacturers of medicine in the area.

The shipment contained what Darwazah described as "equipment, tools and spare parts for chemical products for raw medicine."

Darwazah added that his company received reports of a news item on American television which claimed that the U.S. has "stopped a shipment of chemicals destined for a Jordanian company because it was heading to chemical weapons factories in Iraq," in an apparent reference to the same case.

230 violate restriction; road accident decrease

AMMAN (J.T.) — At least 230 private cars have been impounded by the police in the first two days of applying government orders allowing motorists to use their cars on alternate days, Public Security Department (PSD) sources said Wednesday.

Owners of the impounded cars are forced by law to pay a fine reaching up to JD 50 for each car which could be impounded for a whole week.

By the end of Tuesday only 81 private cars were impounded as the police were tightening control over the roads to see to it that the government order is being respected.

Dmour said that 32 road accidents were reported on the first day of applying the order, down from an average of 55 on other normal days.

All private cars with white and yellow licence plates and those with foreign plates are subjected to the government order, taken to help cut fuel consumption by at least 35 per cent.

Brigadier Ahmad Dmour, director of the PSD's Traffic Department, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra that the government order helped to cut in half the total number of normal road accidents in the country.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday plants an olive tree in Al Azraq area

Queen, princesses and evacuees plant trees

AZRAQ (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor, Their Royal Highness Princesses Iman and Raya, scores of evacuees staying at the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) camps in Al Azraq area as well as volunteers Wednesday planted olive trees in the area as a symbol of peace.

Zarqa Mayor Mohammad Al Shobaki, deputies Salameh Al Ghubairi and Ziad Abu Mahfouz and Ministry of Interior Secretary General Salameh Hammad, who is also chairman of the ministry's Evacuee Welfare Committee, participated in planting trees in the area.

coming from Iraq and Kuwait, and helped in repatriating them to their countries.

Mr. Hadid expressed hope that peace prevails in the region and that war ends, pointing out that JNRCS is planning to hold an international peace gathering. Everyone and every organisation which helped the society in extending aid to evacuees will take part in the gathering, he said.

The evacuee camps in the area will not be removed after the crisis is over, Hadid said. He added that since these camps have an integrated infrastructure, the JNRCS volunteers and others will be using them in the future.

He said the JNRCS sent a team comprising 14 volunteers to Iraq to evacuate Jordanians injured in the war there.

JNRCS Deputy Director Mohammad Mideq Al Hadid said the aim of planting trees in the region was to show that Jordan had hosted evacuees and refugees

Deputies want more arms for People's Army

AMMAN (J.T.) — Members of the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday demanded that the government supply arms to all members and recruits of the People's Army living at the frontline with Israel.

Some of the deputies referred to the government decision to allow cars to run on alternate days and said that the government could resort to other means in this regard. Others said that the government should introduce an amendment to the order giving exceptions to motorists to use cars in extraordinary or emergency situations.

Earlier in the session, the deputies examined queries raised by a number of parliament members, and the government's replies to them. These included a reply from the minister of agriculture about appointments of personnel at his ministry, a reply from the minister of culture and youth about inviting the poet Adonis to Jordan, a reply from the health minister about lack of sufficient medical specialisations in Tafilah and the southern regions of Jordan.

Speaking at a parliament session, attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and cabinet members, the deputies stressed the need for bolstering the frontline positions and boosting the country's military stand in the face of the looming dangers threatening Jordan, particularly in the wake of the American-led aggression on Jordanian civilians and civilian trucks on Iraq-Jordan highway in the past week.

According to government officials the Kingdom has recruited and trained about 320,000 men and women volunteers since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis last August.

The volunteers aged between 16 and 55 include doctors, engineers, lawyers, labourers and industrialists.

The People's Army was founded in 1985 as a national defence force to back up the regular army. Its members are training on the use of light and medium arms, the digging of trenches, the fortifying of positions and the guarding of government installations and buildings.

The House session Wednesday dedicated some time to discussing the government's recent measures pertaining to emergency regulations and rationing of oil

imports.

Some of the deputies referred to the government decision to allow cars to run on alternate days and said that the government could resort to other means in this regard. Others said that the government should introduce an amendment to the order giving exceptions to motorists to use cars in extraordinary or emergency situations.

Earlier in the session, the deputies examined queries raised by a number of parliament members, and the government's replies to them. These included a reply from the minister of agriculture about appointments of personnel at his ministry, a reply from the minister of culture and youth about inviting the poet Adonis to Jordan, a reply from the health minister about lack of sufficient medical specialisations in Tafilah and the southern regions of Jordan.

Other replies came from a number of ministers about the development of tourist areas, and about Jordanians who left the country before the war on Iraq started.

The House debated and approved the economic crimes law.

At the end of the session House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat announced that the next session will be held on Sunday afternoon for further replies by the government ministers about questions submitted by the deputies.

Drivers volunteer to ferry Iraqi oil

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Encouraged by incentives offered by the government and prompted by the need to offer service to the oilcoo under the present circumstances, several drivers employed by the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications have offered to drive oil tanker trucks bringing in crude oil from Iraq to Jordan.

substitute source of crude oil for the country which has been totally relying on Iraq for oil since Saudi Arabia last September cut off its oil supplies to Jordan.

At least seven drivers were killed, 11 others were injured and 31 trucks were destroyed in allied air raids on civilians along the international highway linking Amman with Baghdad inside Iraqi territories over the past two weeks. The government, according to Badran, was paying JD 10,000 in compensation to each of the bereaved families and was taking measures to ensure continued supplies of Iraqi crude to Jordan.

He said that a number of drivers from Greater Amman Municipality and the Public Transport Corporation have also applied to go to Iraq for similar missions. The minister paid tribute to these drivers who, he said, have displayed their true national affiliation and readiness to help their country in times of need.

In his address to the heads of local councils and in a previous statement, the prime minister did not give details about the incentives decided by the government to the drivers. He, however, noted that His Majesty King Hussein has offered to cover the expenses of educating the children of the killed truck drivers from the primary to the university levels.

According to Sarairah the Ministry of Transport welcomes other drivers wishing to go to Iraq on similar missions and said interested drivers can call on telephone 641461 for further information.

Over the past two days, a Jordanian delegation has been negotiating the purchase of oil supplies from Syria, and its members Tuesday held talks with the concerned Syrian government officials to finalise an agreement.

Earlier press reports said that four drivers from the Housing Bank have offered to drive the oil tanker trucks from Iraq to Jordan. Trucking companies are reported to be operating 300 tanker trucks to carry the Iraqi crude to Jordan.

Furthermore, the council of ministers Tuesday evening decided to buy an oil tanker with 100,000 tonne capacity to be stationed permanently at Aqaba port to ensure sufficient crude oil for the Kingdom.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran said in a statement earlier this week that the government has insured all the trucks commuting between Iraq and Jordan and was offering incentives to those drivers wishing to go to Baghdad to drive the tankers with the crude to Jordan.

The oil tanker is expected to cost \$7.5 million, Ministry of Energy officials said. The Kingdom's estimated monthly needs of oil supplies at 60,000 barrels, but in view of the application of fuel-saving measures in government offices, and by allowing private cars to run only on alternative days the Kingdom according to ministry sources was expected to cut the monthly oil consumption by 35 per cent.

U.S. jet fighter's wing to be auctioned today

AMMAN (J.T.) — An aircraft wing "from a U.S. jet fighter" will be auctioned today (Thursday) in the Wihdat refugee camp.

ment, proceedings from the auction would be used for the purchase of milk for Iraqi children. Abu Hassan expected a large turnout for the auction. "Many traders and merchants told us they will show up for the auction," he said. "One merchant in downtown Amman said he will open the bidding with JD 1,000."

In his statement to the heads of the municipal and village councils Tuesday, the prime minister pledged that the Kingdom will continue its imports of crude oil from Iraq until and when the U.N. Security Council finds a

The Wihdat Club, however, said in its advertisement that ambassadors of the 28 nations allied against Iraq are excluded from participating in the bidding. "They (the ambassadors) are welcome to watch, but no foreigners are allowed to take part in the auction," Abu Hassan told the Jordan Times.

According to Abu Hassan, the piece was presented to the club by the Iraqi ministry of social development in appreciation of the club's sending of 100 packages of food to Iraqi children. He said he believed the aircraft was an F16, phantom jetfighter.

The auction takes place at Al Wihdat Club's main hall, that "has a capacity for 3,000 people," at 6 p.m. Thursday.

Iran

(Continued from page 1)

Iran that Turkey's support for United States and its allies in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions on Kuwait. Since we are opposed to Iraq's occupation, we have sided with the United States and its allies to use NATO bases in key to implement U.N. resolutions," Tehran Radio quoted, as saying.

Iran's Velayati also met Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Belonogov, who handed him a message from Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh. Mr. Belonogov discussed the crisis with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi. He lauded Iran's peace initiative and said Moscow was trying hard to prevent the spread of the three-week-old war, IRNA said.

"The Iraqi people are not at fault in the war and their account should be separated from Iraqi authorities," Mr. Vaezi said.

Mr. Rafsanjani Monday offered to meet President Saddam and start talks with the United States in an effort to halt the war.

Neither Iraq nor the United States have responded positively to the Iranian proposal.

"There's nothing to negotiate about," U.S. President George Bush told reporters Tuesday.

sed the crisis with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi. He lauded Iran's peace initiative and said Moscow was trying hard to prevent the spread of the three-week-old war, IRNA said.

"The Iraqi people are not at fault in the war and their account should be separated from Iraqi authorities," Mr. Vaezi said.

Mr. Rafsanjani Monday offered to meet President Saddam and start talks with the United States in an effort to halt the war.

Neither Iraq nor the United States have responded positively to the Iranian proposal.

"There's nothing to negotiate about," U.S. President George Bush told reporters Tuesday.

APPEL DE MEDECINS DU MONDE

Medecins Du Monde, Nous Nous Consacrons, Chacun Dans Notre Pays, A La Lutte Contre La Douleur, La Maladie Et La Mort.

Par Tamps Da Guerra, Cetta Lutta Est Un Devoir Imperieux Et Universel.

Chacun D'entre Nous Se Sant Responsable Da L'universalite Du Droit De Tout Individu A Etre Secoure. Nous Nous Portons Volontaires Pour Exercer Ce Devoir Et Ce Droit D'assistance Humanaire Medicale A Tout Etra Humain En Danger.

Aujourd'hui, Ce Devoir Nous Appelle A Intervenir Aupres Des Populations Refugies En Jordanie, En Iran, En Turquie, En Syrie; Aupres Des Populations Civiles Menacees En Israel, Dans Les Territoires Occupes Et Au Liban.

Ca Mems Devoir Nous Commande D'intervenir Aussi Aupres Des Victimes Civiles Des Combats En Irak, Au Koweit Et En Arabie Saoudite.

Nous Demendons Que Toutes Les Frontieres S'ouvrent A Nos Convois De Soignants Et De Medicaments.

Nous Demendons Que Les Hopiteux Civile Soient Libres D'accueillir Pour Ceux Qui N'ont D'autre Souti Que Le Geste Medical Qui Porte Secours.

Nous Demandons Qua La Securite De Nos Equipes Soit Garantie Par Les Belligerants.

APPEL FROM MEDECINS DU MONDE

OR: DOCTORS OF THE WORLD

We, Of Medecins Du Monde, Dedicate Ourselves, Each In His Own Country, To Struggle Against Pain, Sickness And Death.

In Times Of War, This Struggle Is An Urgent And All-Embracing Universal Duty.

Each One Of Us Feels Responsible For The Universal Right Of Every Individual To Receive Assistance. We Are Volunteers Dedicated To Fulfilling This Humanitarian And Medical Assistance Obligation For All Individuals In Danger.

Today, This Duty Calls On Us To Intervene For The Refugees In Jordan, Iran, Turkey, Syria, For The Civilians Threatened In Israel, For The Occupied Territories & For Lebanon.

We Ask That All Borders Be Opened For Our Convoys Of Medical Assistance & Medicines.

We Ask That All Civilian Hospitals Be Opened For Those Whose Main Concern Is To Provide Medical Assistance.

We Ask That The Safety Of Our Teams Be Guaranteed By The Forces At War.

MDM CONTACT
AMMAN DR. JEAN-LUC JACQUET-SALTZER
TEL: 8708 FAX: 8708
PARIS DR. JACQUES LEBAS
TEL: 33.1.45.57.70.70

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1973.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Peace's the answer

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's speech to the nation yesterday has to be seen as a reaffirmation of Jordan's long-held position on the war in the Gulf and the crisis that led to it. But, beyond that, it has to be studied and analysed as yet another attempt by this country to bring some sense and reason into the thinking of those who do not see beyond the range of an M16 rifle or a Missouri cannon.

People are entitled to hold or express any opinion they like on the causes of troubles in this part of the world. Those who do not know enough, however, may want to listen to men who have spent a lifetime living and handling Middle Eastern problems. King Hussein is one of those men. The fact that he has come out to speak his mind, and represent the conscience of his people, in no uncertain terms, means that there is a message that has to be received. This message is about fairness and justice, but above all it is about peace.

Doubtless there are people in this world who do not want to know, or choose to turn a blind eye to the complexity of the situation in the area, in order to obscure the truth and serve their own narrow self-interests. This is another category of people who might want to take a pause from war-mongering and waging and read into the King's speech what ought to be clearly heard and understood. They will be doing themselves and their people a favour, for many lives that are at stake now can be saved, and property that is otherwise endangered can be protected and put to good use by humanity as a whole.

It is indeed tragic that George Bush and his coalition partners have decided to unleash a military power that was once prepared to participate in a Third World war to destroy an Arab, Muslim country that desired and strived to bring about lasting and just peace to the whole area, and not just in Kuwait. It is equally tragic that every attempt has been made not only to muzzle voices of reason but also to punish the people who hold them. Such, it seems, will be the new world order which Bush and allies are seeking: More hegemony and Western domination, less freedom and sovereignty for peoples of free will, all under the name of international law and legitimacy.

His Majesty the King surely knows that reasonable and realistic words and stands are not easily understood or rewarded in this atmosphere of war and destruction that we are living. But he can rest assured that his people, all honest Arabs and genuine peace lovers throughout the world, are solidly behind him. His, and Jordan's principled position cannot be compromised. Peace with justice is the answer.



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

History repeats itself in Iraq; and the ongoing devastation of cultural centres, irrigation and electricity networks reminds the Arabs of the Tartars whose leader Holoako, devastated Baghdad, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. The paper said that the barbaric aggression on Iraq is only paralleled by the Tartars' acts of aggression on the Arab Nation in the dark ages. The aggression is an embodiment of American deep hatred towards the Arab people and is a war of genocide being waged on the Iraqis, said the Arabic daily. Those involved in the war against the Iraqi people have no culture like the Tartars, and are charged with hatred and malice against the Arabs, there are pirates and assassins bent on killing others and pillaging their property, the paper added. It is a real tragedy to see the Zionist-NATO-American aggression continuing while the world watches without raising its voice in anger; and it is a most shameful thing for the human civilisation to see a retreat to the dark ages, the paper continued. The future generations, the paper said, will no doubt realise that history repeated itself with the barbaric aggression committed by warmongers and assassins of the 20th century.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday raises questions about the application of the recent government measures of allowing private cars to run only on alternate days. Nazih says it is not that people want to use up more oil, because this is the last thing they want to do, but ample preparations for the new measures should have been made before their application. The writer notes that there are people whose jobs require them to use their cars at different times of the day and night like doctors whose services extend through the night and day, and those working in shifts or living in remote areas of Jordan. These and others have not been taken into consideration by the decision-makers who seem to have taken the decision for the application of these measures in haste, says the writer. The majority of people in Jordan support the government's endeavours to save as much oil products as possible under the present difficult circumstances, says Nazih, but he notes that exemptions must have been made for certain groups of citizens who carry out types of work requiring such exemptions. The application of the new measures in their present form can only create problems and difficulties to quite a lot of people, and the writer says an amendment to the regulations ought to be introduced to ease matters for these groups. The writer expresses hope that the emergency regulations will be for a limited duration, and urges members of the public to remain committed to the idea of saving fuel by word and deed.

Kuwaiti united front cracking as opposition and government bicker

By John Pémfret
The Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — As U.S.-led allied forces banded to free Kuwait, Kuwait's ruling family and pro-democracy leaders are bickering over the pace of political change in the oil-rich nation, opposition leaders say.

The dissension threatens the future of a shaky united front between the ruling family and the opposition, the activists say.

If the front collapses, Kuwait's reconstruction could be hampered and the country could again face serious political problems — including a heated struggle for power sharing with the Al Sabah family, rulers of Kuwait since 1759.

That, in turn, could cause trouble in the strategic region. Saudi Arabia and other governments on the Arabian Peninsula are ruled by families, sensitive to political change.

Opposition members accuse Kuwait's government-in-exile of negotiating on a par with the 1962 constitution, which states that Kuwait is a democra-

cy, and restore the parliament, which the government dissolved in 1962.

"They are going back on this pledge," said Ahmed Al Khatib, a former member of the national assembly and a leader of the pro-democracy coalition.

"Now that it seems the war will be won, they think they don't need us anymore," he said in a telephone interview from London.

"The people inside Kuwait are speaking a different language now," said Ahmed Al Rabi, another former assemblyman and opposition leader, who lives in Dubai. "They are looking for new blood, new leaders."

Kuwait's minister of information Bader Al Yacoub denied there were problems.

"Rumors or statements that there is dissension between the government and the opposition has no basis in fact," Al Yacoub said. "During this period there should be no other voice other than the united Kuwaiti voice crying for liberation and freedom."

Ahmed Al Saadoun, head of the opposition and former speaker of the national assembly, disagreed.

"We have serious problems," he said.

Friction also surrounds control of the Kuwait Investment Office, the secretive London-based fund management body which handles a large chunk of the emirate's \$100 billion in foreign assets.

In December, 16 executives quit in an apparent protest of Al Sabah control.

Pro-democracy activists say they are planning to meet soon to discuss their options. They said they would continue talks with the government.

Al Yacoub said a meeting of the opposition would violate the spirit of the united front, hammered out in October at a conference of 750 leading Kuwaiti officials and opposition members in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia.

At the conference, opposition leaders said they had received verbal assurances from the ruling family of a "new Kuwait,"

democratic and free.

In exchange, they vowed to work for Kuwait's liberation under the leadership of the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

But Al Khatib and Al Rabi said the ruling family is unwilling to stick to its promise.

"There is no change in the ideas of the ruling family," Al Rabi said. "After all that is happened in Kuwait, they still think the same way."

Al Khatib said the government-in-exile has formed a special "security committee," including the prime minister and ministers of defence and interior, to set up a martial law government that will preside over Kuwait's reconstruction.

That, he said, is a violation of article 181 of Kuwait's constitution, which mandates that parliament continues to sit during martial law.

Al Khatib said the government has also refused the opposition's demand for elections within six months of returning to Kuwait.

The information minister refused to comment on the allegations.

In the Hamad town refugee camp in Bahrain, Kuwaitis said they were aware of the split.

"We really support both sides Al Sabah and the democrats," said Abdulaziz Khada, a teacher. "They must come to an agreement. Otherwise all of us will suffer."

At the London office of Free Kuwait, one official, Ali Abdullah, said he was troubled by the squabble.

"We all must get our priorities right," he said. "First is to liberate the country. Then, we can go out and shout in the streets." He was leaving this week to join a British armoured regiment in Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait was traditionally the freest nation in the Arab World, boasting the only free-wheeling press and a parliament.

Still, of the estimated 750,000 Kuwaitis, only 62,000 males were eligible to vote.

In 1962, during the Iran-Iraq war, the government banned the

50-member national assembly, and restricted the press after pro-Iranian Shiites launched bomb attacks and attempt on the emir's life. The press said the parliament had also embarrassed the government with accusations of corruption.

In June, two months before the Iraqi invasion, elections were held for a "transitional" legislature.

Pro-democracy activists boycotted the vote and demanded a return of the 1962 parliament.

When Iraq invaded, President Saddam Hussein appealed to opposition leaders that now was their chance to run Kuwait. None came forward.

Al Rabi said the U.S. government was not helping to push for change in a liberated Kuwait.

"They are dealing with us as oil producers, not as human beings with rights, dreams and expectations," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has said now is not the time to insist on reforms in Kuwait.

Saddam's Republican Guard is tough nut to crack

By Giles Elgood
Reuters

LONDON — Iraq's elite Republican Guard is likely to remain a formidable force despite saturation bombing and allied military commanders know it will still be the force to beat if a land battle decides the Gulf war.

Allied spokesmen are unwilling to provide details of just what damage has been done to the guard after continued raids by huge American B-52 heavy bombers laying down their "rolling thunder" carpet of high explosive.

But military sources have made it clear that they expect a large part of the guard to

emerge from its bunkers if or when the allies decide it is time to stop weeks of air raids and start fighting on the ground.

A significant part of any allied ground forces' push might be to the west of Kuwait, outflanking defences along the Emirate's southern border known as the "Saddam line."

Such a manoeuvre would bring the allies' armoured battle groups into direct contact with the Republican Guard, which is being held in strategic reserve on the Kuwait-Iraq border.

Front line troops dug in along the defences and second echelon units behind them are seen by allied strategists as "screening forces" whose role

is to delay a direct allied offensive to allow the guard to counter-attack.

"It is therefore logical to roll it up from the back forwards," said an intelligence source.

The Republican Guard is the best-trained and best-equipped unit of Iraq's million-strong army. It has about 100,000 men, equivalent to the strength of seven divisions, in the Kuwaiti theatre of operations.

It is better paid, better fed and allowed more leave than soldiers from the regular army. Recruits are college-educated volunteers. They are generally Sunni Muslims, while the Shia predominate in the rest of the army.

The guard's eight divisions

are equipped with modern Soviet-made T-22 tanks, up-to-date armoured personnel carriers and some of the best artillery available to the Iraqi forces.

Military sources say its units have spent the six months since the invasion of Kuwait digging themselves and their vehicles into the desert in such a way as to avoid punishment from the repeated bombing raids.

"History shows how remarkably well dug-in troops can survive the most tremendous air bombardment," a senior military source said.

He added that the ground assault started the allies could expect to meet some "pretty serious" fighting.

Allied military officers in Saudi Arabia have said only 10 per cent of the Iraqi army's equipment has been destroyed by bombing raids and there is no sign of the Republican Guard cracking.

"The Republican Guard continues to get the focus of our attention," said U.S. Major General Robert Johnston.

How the Republican Guard behaves in combat could prove crucial, military analysts believe. The fact that the guard has been invested with the prestige of an elite force means that its defeat could prove all the more crushing.

The guard was formed by Saddam as a brigade-sized force — about 3,000 men — to

protect his government from any military coup. Originally only men from his home of Tikrit were recruited.

It was expanded to six brigades in the mid-1980s when it was used in counter-attacks in the Iran-Iraq war. In 1988 it was instrumental in forcing the Iraqis to accept a ceasefire and in August 1990 it spearheaded the invasion of Kuwait.

"Saddam Hussein has made this organisation his personal baby," a military source said.

The guard is now commanded by Lieutenant-General Khalifa Al Rawi, a Saddam loyalist who formerly commanded the regular army's strong 6th division.

Mayor Dinkins, did you hear of the Palestinians?

By Izzat Dajani

David N. Dinkins was elected mayor of New York city in Nov. 1989. The controversy and heightened interest surrounding his election was because to be elected in the city. His predecessor, Edward I. Koch, served as mayor for almost 12 years. Mr. Koch's ties to the Jewish community were unquestionable as he was constantly supported and his campaigns financed by this influential grouping in the city of New York. To secure his election, Mr. Dinkins had to woo the support and endorsement of his campaign by the varied interest groups, among which the Jewish ones stood in the lead. His first move was to disassociate himself from black civil rights campaigner Rev. Jesse Jackson who was not popular among Jewish voters because of sympathetic statements about the Palestinians.

"I alone will be mayor, not Jesse Jackson. He is not going to tell me how to run New York city, he would not try and if he did try, I would reject the notion," Mr. Dinkins said.

Mr. Dinkins' next step was to secure the endorsement of Mayor Koch and Governor Mario M. Cuomo. They were all Democrats and all shared the contention of keeping Republicans out. But there was the daunting fact that fewer than three in ten Jews who turned out for the primary elections voted for Mr. Dinkins. So it was succinct that more Jewish support was needed and hence more compromises, per se, should go underway. Mr. Dinkins eventually "sold" his principles, and probably himself, to the Jewish interest groups. He regularly visited influential rabbis, wore the Jewish head cap, and concentrated much of his campaign around Jewish temples and quarters.

Mr. Dinkins eventually became mayor, and our naiveest of us to believe he would restore some of his lost principles. We thought he would campaign for human rights and justice. He was already mayor and his good work, dedication, and public attitude should support his reelection, if he so wished. At least these were our assumptions and estimations of a man who came from the persecuted black



minority in the USA.

"Israel is showing tremendous restraint while it has the legitimate claim to all U.N. resolutions including U.S. endorsed ones."

A report by Save the Children Organisation points out that "Israeli soldiers, following an unwritten army policy, used weapons against Palestinian children in a manner that was unjustified, unreasonable, excessive and unlawful. An estimated 60,000 Palestinian children under the age of 16 have required medical attention for injuries. Nearly 200 children were killed by gunfire, beating or tear gas." Where were you then Mr. Dinkins, and why did you keep silent?

Let me remind you how you were described by your Republican opponent during the election campaign: "Elect David Dinkins, he's just part of the problem." This is proving to be astonishingly true. You betrayed yourself, your community and

above all your principles, or whatever was left of them.

mate right to answer back and retaliate. This has to be greatly appreciated and admired," was Mayor Dinkins' statement during his current visit to Israel in response to the Iraqi Scud missiles that hit the country. The stupendous fact in this statement was Mayor Dinkins' abhorrent attitude in recognising some distress that few Israelis suffered, while totally ignoring the loud facts of grave and unjust practices by the same Israelis towards Palestinians in the occupied territories.

To Mr. Dinkins, why say, while you were standing by the Walling Wall showing compassion to Jews, you should have looked over your shoulder to the Al Aqsa Mosque where a massacre was recently carried out by the Israeli police against unarmed Palestinian civilians. You should have shown your discontent with the inhumane Israeli practices of enforcing a curfew in the occu-

pied territories since the Gulf war started on Jan. 17. You did not mention the tremendous suffering endured by the 1.7 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza due to lack of water, food and medicines. You failed to mention the bone-breaking intimidation, blowing up of jailed Arabs' houses to punish their women and children, lengthy prison sentences because of frail claims and accusations and police-state tactics which were condemned everywhere else in the world, except Israel of course.

Why did you ignore your own government's declaration: "The U.S. views of East Jerusalem as an occupied territory." Your very President George Bush, opposed all settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. But you chose to overstep all this and embrace Mr. T. Kollek, the Israeli mayor of Jerusalem who was responsible for housing over 110,000 Jews in East Jerusalem

LETTERS

PoWs

The following is a letter sent by the British ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Anthony Reeve to the Jordanian Students Union on the subject of Iraqi detainees in Britain. A copy of the letter was sent to the editor of the Jordan Times in reply to an article translated from Al Ra'i Arabic daily and reprinted in the Jordan Times on Jan. 30. The article was written by Senator Jumaa Hammad on the same subject.

Dear members of the student union,

I am replying to your letter dated Jan. 29, in which you referred to the recent detention of Iraqi nationals in Britain. You may find it helpful to have the following information.

A number of Iraqi nationals have been detained by the British authorities on grounds of national security, connected with threats by the Iraqi leadership to use terrorism. In the case of civilians, this detention is pending deportation and the people concerned are free to leave the United Kingdom at any time.

On the outbreak of hostilities all these detainees became protected persons under the terms of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The British government immediately accepted its obligations under the convention and offered full access to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), who dispatched an inspection team which interviewed all Iraqis then held in detention individually and in private. British ministers received the ICRC delegation at the beginning and end of their mission and reaffirmed the government's determination to comply with Britain's obligations under both the Third Geneva Convention (which concerns prisoners of war) and the Fourth (which covers civilians).

On Jan. 25 a further 33 Iraqi nationals were detained. They were studying at British universities under the sponsorship of the Military Attaché at the Iraqi embassy in London. All except one were identified as being serving officers in the Iraqi army, in ranks between Captain and Lt.-Col. and all admitted to their military status. Under the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention concerning prisoners of war, these detainees, together with two other serving officers in the Iraqi Armed Forces who were on courses in Britain, were held in military custody. The ICRC were promptly notified and the prisoners of war have now been transferred to permanent accommodation at a PoW camp. Again, the ICRC were informed of the transfer and "capture cards" giving full details of the prisoners have been forwarded to that organisation. The ICRC will be sending a further inspection mission in February, when they will again be able to see all the prisoners of war and any other Iraqi nationals in detention.

In contrast to this account of the British government's treatment of prisoners of war defined under the Geneva Convention, the following information is also relevant.

To date, the Iraqi authorities have not allowed access to the ICRC to visit airmen from the multi-national force held in captivity in Iraq. Nor has the ICRC been notified of the names of any of these airmen. Instead the prisoners have been interviewed on television to make statements apparently obtained under duress. This is directly contrary to Articles 13 and 17 of the Third Geneva Convention, which state that prisoners of war must be protected at all times against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity.

In addition, Iraq has announced its intention to send the prisoners to "strategic sites," and more recently has claimed that some have been wounded and one killed as a result. This is directly contrary to Articles 19 and 23 of the Third Geneva Convention, which state that no prisoner of war may at any time be sent to or detained in areas where he may be exposed to fire of the combat zones nor may his presence be used to render certain points or areas immune from military operations.

The British government look to the Iraqi authorities to recognise the humanitarian needs of the families of the captured prisoners of war and to take immediate action to fulfill Iraq's obligations in this respect, in the same way as Britain's obligations are being fully met.

Yours sincerely,
Anthony Reeve.

Jordan Times WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

Feb. 7, 1991 A

75 years later, World War I haunts high-tech Gulf war

By Trip Dahard
The Associated Press
VERDUN, France — Rifles
ing over their shoulders,
old War I soldiers often
cycled bravely to the front,
flowed by mules pulling car-
ges of guns and cannons.
By the time the war ended,
e world knew the effects of
ion gas, aerial bombard-
ents, tanks, machine guns
d an entrenched enemy —
l images which haunt the
gh-tech war being waged in
e Gulf today.
“The weapons are more
efect, but the role of the
en remains the same,” said
al. Leon Rodier, director of
e Memorial Museum at
erdun, site of one of the
ost battles of World War I.
At Verdun, the German
ack against the French for-
es began 75 years ago this

month, on Feb. 21, 1916. By
the time it ended some 10
months later, with the Ger-
mans in retreat, 250,000 men
had died along a 5.6 kilometre
front.
Today, the Memorial
Museum at Verdun stands on
the site of a former village
that traded hands 16 times
before being entirely obliter-
ated. Inside, pictures of hol-
low-eyed men huddled be-
tween muddy walls recall the
worst days of the battle.
World War I in Europe was
essentially a series of static
battles fought by armies
arrayed against each other in
trenches.
“World War II, by com-
parison, was generally a war
of movement,” said Mitchell
Strohl, professor emeritus at
American University in Paris
and former lecturer at the

U.S. Naval War College.
“What we’re up against
now, as we were in World
War I, is an entrenched enemy.”
In Kuwait, the bulk of the
545,000 Iraqi troops has taken
up the time-honoured defen-
sive position, reportedly dig-
ging into trenches and elabo-
rate tunnels. The multination-
al force fighting Iraq counts
on high technology and pro-
longed aerial bombardment to
soften positions and spare
their own troops in the land
war.
Time and technology have
taken the Gulf war beyond
the ferocious trench battles of
World War I.
“You’ve got tanks to do
that and they’re so fast. I
think the day is gone when
you’ll want to send men
against something like that,”

Strohl said. “It’s utterly
suicidal.”
If huge land battles are
fought in the Gulf, Strohl
believes they won’t degener-
ate into Verdun’s stark condi-
tions.
Improved weaponry “will
settle the issue sooner, and
settle it on the basis of fewer
casualties,” he predicted.
The situation was very
different during World War I.
Stymied by further ad-
vances, in part by the machine
gun fire that stalled open field
attacks, German soldiers set-
tled into trenches to maintain
advances into Belgium and
France. Unable to overrun
them, the French dug their
own trenches. In subsequent
months, waves of men took,
lost and retook several hun-
dred metres during debilitat-
ing battles.

The grinding wars of attri-
tion ate men by the
thousands. In one day during
the allies’ Somme offensive
in France, some 60,000 men
died. By war’s end, almost 60
per cent — 37.4 million — of
the 65 million men mobilised
worldwide were listed as
dead, missing or wounded.
“This is the hell of it,” said
Strohl. “If you want to win...
the remaining question is to
what extent are you prepared
to accept human sacrifices to
achieve your end.”
During the attacks, the bat-
tle lapsed into mind-numbing
bombardments under which
some men cracked.
“Modern warfare... re-
duces men to shivering
beasts,” one soldier of the
time wrote. “There isn’t a
man who can stand shell-fire
of the modern kind without

getting the blues.”
Nowadays, precision laser-
guided bombings and cruise
missile attacks on Iraqi targets
are a stark contrast to the
small bombs sometimes hand-
carried onto primitive planes
in World War I.
But bombs and shelling
aren’t the only weapons. The
spectre of poison gas haunts
the Gulf war zone.
Poison gas able to kill men
slowly and painfully was first
used in the spring of 1915.
The attacks had men rushing
for their crude early gas
masks. The weapon was later
outlawed.
In Saudi Arabia and Israel,
the populations now rush for
their gas masks during Iraqi
Scud missile alerts. No gas
weapons have been used so
far, but Iraq says it has the
capability.

Anthropologist returns from stone age tribe with wife, memories and book

By Sheila McNulty
The Associated Press

UTHERFORD, New
ersey — For 12 years Ken-
eth Good lived in the stone
age.
Deep in the Amazon jungle,
Venezuela, he led the life
of a Yanomama Indian tri-
be — hunting for food,
living in rivers, trekking to
lages where Westerners
never have been. Ham-
mers, television and air
conditioning became distant
memories. Tarantula spiders
to a coveted delicacy.
“I never missed anything,”
od said.
Good recounts his experi-
es with the Yanomama in
recently published book,
The Heart. He’s now
eking on two sequels as
as a movie version of his
life.
When he returned to the
ted States in 1987, he
ght his Indian wife Yari-
with him, but left behind
friends and a life he had
e to love.
he 10,000 or so members
he Yanomama tribe in
ezuela have a stone age
ure. They live without a
dar, clothing and even
the wheel. The tribe has
concept of numbers, time,
etition or stress, accord-
o Good. The men hunt
the women gather other
’s a nice, balanced lifes-
Good said. “Their cul-
’s probably closer to the
human beings were
t to live.”
it’s what turned a 15-
stint of Penn State
ity graduate fieldwork
more than a decade of
ological research. As
adied the eating habits,
ge and customs of the
ama, Good lived as
ama.
moved from his own hut
mmunal shelter, joined
nts for monkeys and
small game, traded his
ks and pots for tribe
’s help in coping with
ors of jungle life. And
ried a Yanomama.
d, 48, and his 25-year-
e have two children,
4, and Vanessa, 3.
e live in Rutherford, a
American community less
kilometres from New

York City, and Good teaches
anthropology at nearby
ersey State College.
The family is becoming
more and more Ameri-
ised as the years in the jungle
fade into memory. From watching
television, Yarina has be-
come a fan of Janet Jackson
and Madonna, and the chil-
dren like cartoons.
But Yarina gets bored, her
husband said. In the jungle
she had friends and family,
people to talk to. She doesn’t
speak English, so the children
keep her company and Good
is her only friend.
“She isn’t able to feel like a
complete adult. In the jungle
she was always out,” he said.
Yarina misses her former
life in the jungle, but she
seems to be adjusting to
American fast-food like
French fries and cola.
“She’s learning our cul-
ture,” Good said. “She loves
to buy clothes. She likes to go
to the mall. I hate it, of
course.”
Good, who said he grew up
in a “boring suburb” of Phil-
adelphia, has come to dislike
a lot of things about Ameri-
can society, including the
competition and stress he
found waiting for him after
more than a decade in the
jungle.
“Civilisation screws up
your head. Life is hectic here.
We have to work harder and
harder and longer and longer
to make a living,” he said.
“I would really love to be
down there,” Good said. “I
can make a list of 1,000 things
that I can’t wait to get away
from.”
But Good wants his chil-
dren to learn English, the
ways of the Western World,
modern technology. That way
they will be able to decide for
themselves whether to live in
the United States or return to
their mother’s roots in the
Amazon.
“No Indian would dream of
living like this. It’s terrible,”
he said. But then he looked at
young Vanessa, crying over a
nick on her finger, and won-
dered, “how is she going to
live out in the bush? She’s too
American.”
Good said he also is too
American to live out his days
in the jungle. “No one can go
native. Eventually you have
to come out.”



The library in Wolfenbüttel

The whole world meets at the library in Wolfenbüttel

By Anna Brecken

ONE could envy Paul Raabe
his study. Precious old books
serve as walls. The hand-
some, aged spines are softly
illuminated. The chief libra-
rian’s desk at the Herzog
August Library in Wolfen-
büttel stands on a rostrum
and enjoys a significant view.
One can see a good part of
the library campus from the
window. Scholars from all
over the world work here.
The removal of the border
was a real stroke of luck; the
former long journey to Wol-
fenbüttel for colleagues from
Weimar, Gotha, Halle and
Dresden is now just a stone’s
throw.
Professor Raabe is the
head of this unique mini-
republic for scholars in the
small in Lower Saxony — in
the heart of provincial Ger-
many. It enjoys international
fame for its collection of
books, a collection like no
other in the world. From his
window, Professor Raabe
looks onto the magnificent
Renaissance palace in which
the dukes of Brunswick re-
sided for centuries. The
foundation stone for the li-
brary was laid in the palace 400
years ago. But the real pro-
tagonist is Duke Augustus the
Younger (1579-1666). He
was both a passionate and
knowledgeable bibliomaniac.
The academically educated
duke journeyed to Italy,
France and England. He
brought back large quantities
of books from all his travels.
He disbanded his army. In-
stead of waging war and dis-
patching political ambassa-

dors all over the world, he
sent book couriers through
Europe who enlarged his li-
brary in a unique manner. In
this way, a universal collec-
tion of books came into being
which constitutes an inex-
haustible supply of informa-
tion on the state of knowl-
edge and scientific aware-
ness in Europe in early mod-
ern times.
What this wonderful, un-
warlike Duke Augustus
looked like, can be seen in
Wolfenbüttel market place,
in the centre of this small
Renaissance town, through
which the little river Oker,
rising in the Harz, gracefully
threads its way. There, the
duke, dismounted from his
horse, stands on a pedestal.
He is cautiously holding the
animal by the reins. Travelling
boots flap around his legs.
A peripatetic scholar, not a
warlike prince!
“I spent eight days in this
library and only left it to eat
and sleep at my inn. These
eight days are among the
happiest in my life, for I was
not occupied with myself for
a single moment; I thought
neither of the past nor of the
future, and my mind, com-
pletely absorbed in work, was
unable to perceive the pres-
ent. I have occasionally
thought that the life of the
blessed must be similar.”
This is how Casanova, the
Italian philosopher, lady-
killer, gambler, and subse-
quently librarian in a count’s
service in Bohemia, de-
scribed Wolfenbüttel. This
collection of books, adminis-
tered by philosopher Leibniz

in the early 18th century, was
famed throughout Europe.
Lessing was the librarian
from 1770 until his death in
1781. The house of this great
writer of the German
Rationalist Movement, next
to the hundred-year-old main
building on the library cam-
pus, is a museum nowadays.
Casanova, Leibniz, Less-
ing. They were lonely re-
searchers in the midst of pre-
cious books which are ac-
cessible to all today. Professor
Raabe, head librarian for the
last twenty years, is the
founder of “Civitas
Accademica Augusta.” Here,
academic scholarship
holders from all over the
world can do research, free
from the daily round at uni-
versity. Something which is
also cultivated and popular is
the interdisciplinary discus-
sion in conversations, sym-
posia, discussions and lec-
tures. This starts with lunch
at an Italian restaurant, a few
steps away from the research
library, beneath the roof of
an old Renaissance store-
house. Young academics and
experienced scholars sit next
to each other; there are no
set places at table. And so
historian from Halle-Saale
finds herself conversing with
a philologist from the USA, a
musicologist from Great Brit-
ain with a linguist from
Padua, a Romance-language
scholar from Madrid with an
expert on Baroque literature
from Prague, a natural sci-
entist from Dublin with a
medical historian from
Bodapest, a German lan-
guage scholar from Weimar
with a German language

scholar from Göttingen;
something which was part of
the particular wonders of
Wolfenbüttel before the
intra-German border was re-
moved.
The library, with its
600,000 books, is an official
research and study centre for
European cultural history.
This summer, the principal of
the University of Kraków,
Poland — with which close
relations are maintained —
praised the library with the
words “This is a European
house.” He summed up his
stay at the small scholars’
republic on the Oker in two
sentences: “I was able to read
undisturbed for three weeks.
I feel like a newborn child.”
Apart from international
connections, intra-German
relations are being particu-
larly intensified. Academic ex-
change is being cultivated
with Berlin, Dresden, Gotha,
Halle and Weimar. What is
new is the fact that persons
east of the former border are
now able to discover the li-
brary as a museum. Medieval
manuscripts, atlases, globes,
Baroque love of books, a
priceless collection of Bibles,
including the “dearest book
in the world” — The Gospel
of Henry the Lion, acquired
at an auction for 32 million
German marks — are all
carefully looked after here.
There is also an extensive
collection of painters’ books
— representing such artists as
Arp, Chagall, Max Ernst,
Miro and Picasso — who
have made a name for them-
selves with artists’ books in
this century — IN-press.

Dr. Ellen Rosser

By E. Yaghi

DAY 8 of the U.S.-led aggression against the people of Iraq:
It was early evening in Amman. The day had been gray, rainy
and due to the tragic events in the Gulf, depressing, but as the
sun faded behind the dark purple mountains, stars twinkled a
sort of calm reassurance. The dusky night, washed by winter
rains was refreshing and uplifting.
I made my way towards the Palestine Hospital which is
nestled behind the Amman Housing Complex. The icy outside
air met and contrasted with the flow of warm air which
permeated the hospital. The atmosphere of the sanctum was
peaceful and soothing effectuated by the very courteous and
cordial nurses and staff. At the reception desk, I asked for Dr.
Ellen Rosser’s room and was escorted there by a gracious
nurse with large brown eyes and a captivating smile.
When I entered Dr. Rosser’s room, there were two items
which caught my attention. One was the prestigious gentle
person of Dr. Rosser herself and the other was a huge bouquet
of an assortment of beautiful flowers given as a gift by a peace
group in Jordan. I sat overshadowed and in awe of the gift of
love given by the Jordanian people to a woman who is fasting
for peace with love until the Gulf war ends.
Although I greatly admire Dr. Rosser’s efforts by her
hunger strike to end the war in the Gulf, I do not agree with
her tactics. It was with this thought in mind that I went to visit
her, deeply concerned for her well-being. “Surely, Dr.
Rosser, a woman of obvious intellect and education can find a
more positive way of promoting peace.” Continuing, I added,
“Why don’t you return to the United States and tell the
Americans what you have seen here? You could accomplish
much by speaking and writing about the crime being enacted
by America and its allies against an innocent Iraqi civilian
population. You could also shed some light on the Palestinian
problem.”
But, Dr. Rosser only shook her head in objection. So, I was
unable to convince her to stop fasting. However, I can not
count my mission as a total failure because I was privileged to
speak with this remarkable woman for a while.
I learned that Dr. Rosser belongs to World Peace Now.
This organisation was established in 1981 in Poynt Arena,
California. Dr. Rosser states that it is an ecumenical group
committed to ending war and the idea that no person should
kill another. Presently, Jordan has two members in World
Peace Now. Perhaps after my conversation with Dr. Rosser,
others have joined.
When the Gulf war began, Dr. Rosser, who is a retired
American professor of English literature, was en route from
Jerusalem via Amman on her way to Baghdad. She was going
to join the peace activists at the Peace Camp near the
Iraqi-Saudi border. However, the outbreak of hostilities
prevented her from proceeding on with her journey.
Therefore, every day, in front of the American embassy,
she stands in the cold and sometimes drenching rain in vigil,
fasting and waiting for a man called George Bush to stop an
insane war. She is protesting to this war in the form of a
hunger strike. The last meal she had was on the morning of
Jan. 17.
She is a non-violent person who believes that all conflicts
can be solved in a peaceful manner. Her light blue eyes peer
out from a sunburnt face. Her spirits are enormously high but
of course, her hunger strike is dangerous to her health.
However, it seems that her noble determination has given
spiritual nourishment to her mind thus providing her with a
physical strength.
While in occupied Jerusalem, she saw the courtyard of Al
Haram Al Sharif where more than twenty Palestinians were
massacred by the Israeli troops. Here is part of a poem that
she wrote concerning this incident:
On the Temple Mount
Ah, whose innocent blood was that
which ooz stains in the courtyard,
a last testimony to the good, simple people
who came to save their beloved holy place
from the threat they believed existed,
and who gave their spirit and their life’s blood
for their faith, for freedom and for their country,
which they love...
In 1931, Gandhi said, “Nonviolence is the greatest force at the
disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of
destruction devised by the ingenuity of man.” “Every murder or
other injury, no matter for what cause, committed or inflicted on
another is a crime against humanity.”
Here too, is an excerpt of a poem written in prison by a famous
Palestinian whom Dr. Rosser knows:
After the Temple Mount
Lord, my breast is heavy with bitterness, let me not hate.
Lord, my heart is filled with pain, let me not avenge myself.
Lord, my soul is fearful, let not that fear turn to hatred.
Lord, my body is weak, let me not despair.
Lord, I am one of your worshippers standing at the crossroads,
sustain my strength.
Lord, to believe is to love, to forgive and never to doobt.
Faith is a light that guides the way, put out that light...
By Faisal Hussein (translated from original Arabic, published in
Al-Ithad, on Nov. 2, 1990).
I could tell that my visit had tired an already exhausted person. So,
I heard Dr. Rosser’s final and I think beautiful words concerning her
theory about Jerusalem. “What I look forward to seeing in God’s city
(Old City of Jerusalem) which belongs not to Israel or Palestine, but
to God, is to have the three religions which came from Abraham —
Judaism, Christianity and Islam — come together and fulfill the
prophecies of all three religions that have not yet been fulfilled. For
Judaism, swords into plowshares and study war no more. For
Christianity, God’s will on earth as it is in heaven. For Islam, Islam
means submission to the will of God which will bring world peace.
Together in harmony, the three religions will do this from Jeru-
salem.”
I would like to live as a non-violent person in Dr. Rosser’s
beautiful world of peace. But, I remember how 85,000 Lebanese are
permanently disabled from the war in Lebanon. I remember too, that
48,000 Palestinians have been injured during the intifada, many of
them also permanently disabled. I remember the horror that is
presently being committed against innocent Iraqi civilians. I am
caught between the reality of now which conflicts with the dream of
non-violent peace. This dream is not obtainable to every person who
speaks of a world of love and peace for there are mercenaries,
warlords and warmongers who thrive on destruction and death of
their fellow humans.
In 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King said: “No individual can live
alone; no nation can live alone, and as long as we try, the more we
are going to have war in this world. Now the judgment of God is
upon us, and we must either learn to live together as brothers or we
are all going to perish together as fools.”
I left the benevolent Dr. Rosser as determined as ever to remain
on her hunger strike. I left the enchanting bouquet of flowers and the
warm hospital. The night seemed even brighter than when I first went
out that evening and the air even fresher and my spirits somewhat
uplifted inspite of the upheaval and death that fill the cities of Iraq
and live in the vanguard of my mind and the core of my heart.

EDITOR’S NOTE:

On Feb. 3, Dr. Rosser left Amman for Washington D.C. to
continue her hunger strike in front of the White House. It
was of the opinion of many, that her fasting would be much
more effective there instead of here.

Peace artists begin new painting on edge of Gulf

AMMAN (J.T.) — Carl Chaplin's tall frame and shaven head were conspicuous in the crowds streaming through Amman's old city today. Dodging taxis and diesel fumes, the Canadian artist wandered through Byzantine castle ruins dating back more than 1,800 years. Chaplin stopped to examine Dead Sea scrolls before ducking into a shop in search of canvas, paints and brushes.

Back in the lobby of Amman's Marriott Hotel, the Vancouver resident immediately set up a borrowed easel and began layering acrylics on a 30" by 40" canvas. As hotel guests and passersby gathered around the makeshift studio, an image of rolling black clouds from oil well fires began to form above the red desert sands of the Middle East.

Titled *Black Rain*, the new work by this world-renowned eco-artist is intended as a warning of the Gulf war's inevitable consequences. "Scientists from around the planet are telling us that if the Kuwaiti oilfields are burned, the resulting firestorm could rage for years," Chaplin explains to frowning bystanders. "A black cloud the size of the United States will circle the Earth for months, disrupting monsoons, blocking photosynthesis, contaminating fresh water supplies and dropping temperatures 20-degrees Celsius. The choice is stopping the war or stopping the planet."

Best known for his *Art Nuko* series of paintings depicting world capitals under nuclear attack, Chaplin brought the show to Amman to serve as a call for peace — and a warning of the terrible danger that this conflict could "go nuclear" either by accident or ill intention. Now, in the face of a global environmental threat of a "petroleum winter," Chaplin has returned full circle his *Art Eco* roots. "It doesn't matter whether the cloud is nuclear, chemical or burning oil," Chaplin told his hotel audience, if weapons of mass destruction are used in the Gulf, hundreds of millions of people will die.

Chaplin took his *Art Nuko* exhibit — which was lost in transit for one week after Dutch security officials decided that its provocative imagery would inflame Arab minds — into the streets of Amman. "So far the reaction has been one of intense curiosity and concern by people who see these 13 images not as an artist's fantasy but as documents portending an immediate possibility. I'm scared," Chaplin said. "Real scared that within a few weeks a series of events will be set in train by the allied invasion of Kuwait which will have unimaginable and unstoppable consequences for the entire planet."

The artist intends to use *Black Rain* to make a poster in four languages calling for an end to the Gulf war.

CHOICES

By Ramzi Al-Salam

SUMMER: The seashore; the tide is gently beating against the sand. Along the horizon where Earth meets sky, little droplets of water sparkle reflecting the rays of the sun then continuing into path on the surface of the water.

SPRING: The flowers; red, violet, blue, pink, yellow... New nests forming. Motherhood is thriving. Little ones everywhere.

FALL: Colourful leaves of brown, yellow and red flowing gently with the breeze, clothing the Earth. Mysterious clouds above come together as little droplets start pitter patter and talking to the Earth.

WINTER: Peacefully, white, and cottony, the snow feathers down. The bride, Earth, noiseless and calm is beautifully and graciously awaiting springtime.

THE FUTURE: How will it be?

The Time: 10:22 Q.Z. (Equivalent of 1990's on Earth)

The Place: Planet "Insight"

The night is a clear one, so, young Hope picks up his telescope to observe the universe. On his side, his father, W. H. H., stands gently guiding the lad. It is a peaceful time they always share.

"Dad" said Hope, "look, there's a shooting star!" But Wisdom isn't sure about that, so he looks through the telescope to make sure. He then looks away and, with regret, answers his son. "No Hope, this is planet Earth"

"But Father," replies Hope, "It can't be a planet, it was in flames."

SUMMER: the heat is unbearable. Dead bodies float to shore while scavengers in the streets fight over the remains. Putrid odors fill the air.

SPRING: Red blood covers the ground everywhere. Flies buzzing here and there. Under a tree, a dead mother cradles a starved, waiting infant soon to follow suit.

FALL: Human parts along with garbage flow with the rain into the gutters where the rats impatiently await the feast.

WINTER: Red snow attracts the canine species. The Earth is cold. The wind howls in the empty streets where corpses lay quietly on top of each other for lack of space. There is no time to bury the dead. The living must keep fighting.

Is your car odd or even?

By Maha Addasi

In the past few days people have been glued to their radios. Not so much for the news about the Gulf war as to know whether the odd number-even number car regulation has been revoked or not.

People have changed their plans. I know a person who, anticipating the possible gas difficulties, stored a few tanks of gas at home so that he could fill up his car in case of gas scarcity. Keeping gas tanks at home is not safe, if you ask me, but this odd-even regulation has caused his plan to backfire.

Another family I know has three cars all with even numbers. This family came from Kuwait after the crisis and they do not have the money to spare especially if they must now use public transportation. I understand how difficult it must be for them to leave their cars waiting outside their houses and each take a taxi to work or to school. Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink!

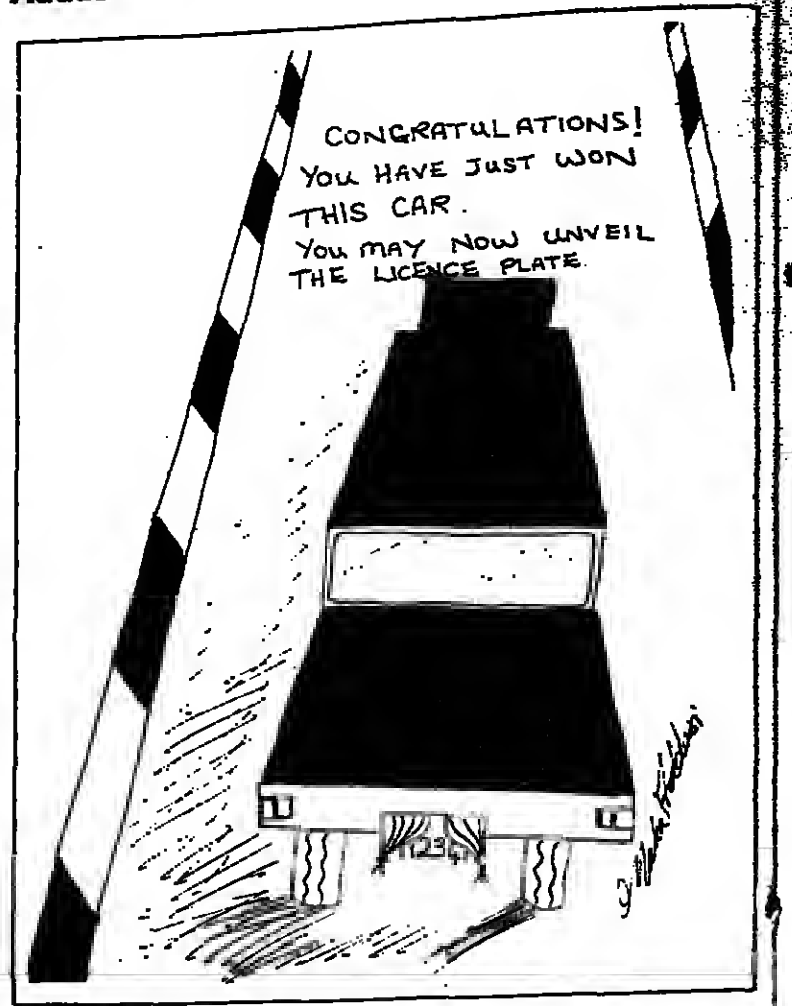
Then there's another problem. One person said it very eloquently. "I can not prepare myself mentally, to be able to stand up at the edge of the road and wait for a taxi or bus while my car is waiting outside my home. Taxis will definitely be congested at this time so I decided to take a vacation on the odd days this month." The funny thing is that he has arranged for a vacation on alternative days just like he said.

Another person said that he was prepared to pay double for gas because it would be less expensive for him than taking public transportation. "Besides," he said, "being unable to drive my own car is suffocation at its finest."

Who's pleased about this? Mothers whose children just got their driver's licence and who worry themselves to death when their kids are on the road. Now they worry half as much.

So, any immediate solutions for those who are not pleased with the new arrangements?

Just put an ad in the papers:
"Wanted: Car — preferably starting with an — number."
You can fill in odd or even accordingly!



Notre Dame to get expensive facelift

By Marilyn August
The Associated Press

PARIS — Old age, pollution and the elements have finally caught up with Notre Dame, the Gothic Cathedral once dubbed "the parish of French history."

"The monument's general condition is worrisome, and if we don't do something now, we'll end up with a very sick building," said Bernard Fonquernie, chief architect at the Culture Ministry's Division of Historical Monuments.

The Cultural Ministry has earmarked 100 million francs (about \$19 million) for an ambitious 10-year facelift of Notre Dame to begin this summer.

Started in 1163 under King Louis VII and finished almost 200 years later, Notre Dame is hailed as one of the supreme masterpieces of French art. Critics call it "solid, but not heavy," with an architectural perfection all its

own.

But not solid enough, says Fonquernie, who blames rain, wind, sun, frost and dust for eating away the porous, gray stone over the centuries.

The restoration starts with the removal of all loose stones and installation of anti-suction nets. Other measures will be decided later.

Chunks of loose stone regularly fall off the facade and off interior walls — sometimes into nets, and sometimes just missing visitors. Fortunately, no one has been hurt, Fonquernie says.

"Last year freezing temperatures caused a lot of damage," Fonquernie said. "In the spring, many fragments broke loose."

The cathedral's most dangerous enemy is pollution from the hundreds of taxis and tourist buses which converge daily on the site on the Ile de la Cite in the middle of

the Seine River.

Many buses, Fonquernie said, park for hours with their motors running and exhaust spewing for the sole purpose of maintaining heat in winter and air conditioning in summer.

City authorities banned parking around the cathedral in 1989. But the rule is widely ignored, and few vehicles are towed away.

Human traffic — 11 million visitors yearly — has also taken its toll. Sweaty hands soil the walls and footsteps wear thin the floors.

"I have seen the stained glass windows, vaults and pillars dripping with condensation caused by the heat of human bodies," Fonquernie said.

In the summer, one journalist wrote, the majestic cathedral looks more like "the lobby of a train station" than a church. A visitor once bicycled around the nave.

The facelift marks the first major restoration project since 1843, when architect Eugene Viollet-Le-Duc tried to undo damage wrought by the revolution, when the church was used to store food.

Unfortunately, the cement and mortar he used during his 23-year-overhaul have rotted more quickly than the original stones.

Viollet-Le-Duc added ogival vaulting and interior walls, unearthed traces of the Gothic choir, rebuilt a spire and adorned the three main doors with statues inspired by the cathedrals of Reims and Amiens.

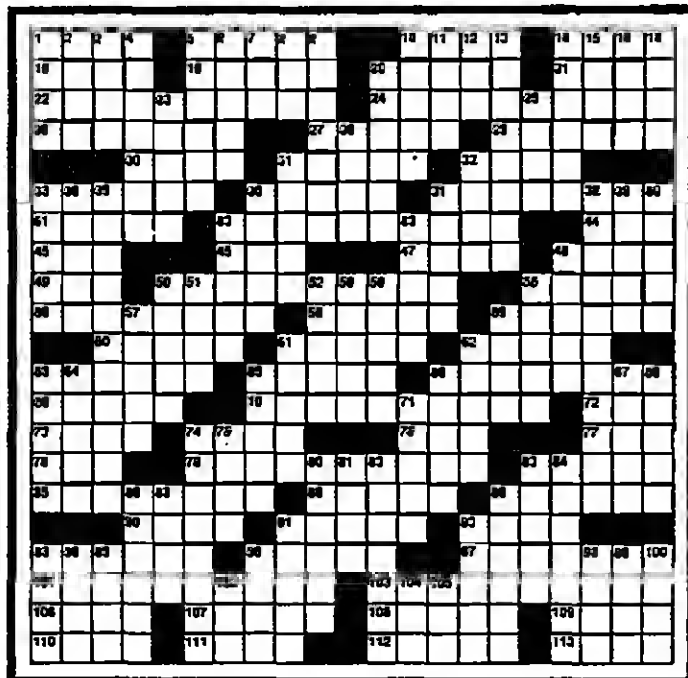
Fonquernie predicts that his own restorations will have to be restored in the next century.

"For me, this is a real problem," he said. "How authentic will Notre Dame be when its stones have been replaced?"

Weekend Crossword

TERMS OF ENDEARMENT
By Louis Sablin

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Rude fellows | 1 Broadway hit | 1 Liquor | 1 Fashioned |
| 2 Mottled again | 2 Mottled leader | 2 Town in Belgium | 2 Love god |
| 3 Like | 3 Desperate | 3 Elaborate melody | 3 Money in Milan |
| 4 All — (adjective) | 4 Sun parlor | 4 Scribe | 4 Snarl |
| 5 Exchange | 5 After | 5 Embellish | 5 Female ones |
| 6 pramium | 6 Choose | 6 Western plains | 6 Bayers |
| 7 Lacquer base | 7 Insect snarer | 7 Group of animals | 7 Summer wear |
| 8 Happily | 8 Ostrich's kin | 8 Western plains | 8 Changes |
| 9 To-do | 9 Computer type | 9 Plant | 9 Nuisance |
| 10 Herbie's film bow | 10 Friendless | 10 Post T.S. | 10 Arm bone |
| 11 Charles Boyer | 11 Exception | 11 Metric measure | 11 Disturbance |
| 12 film | 12 Resident or. suff. | 12 Fastening device | |
| 13 During in 24A | 13 Characteristic | 13 Steeper's sound | |
| 14 Faddish | 14 Worn out | | |
| 15 Musical break | 15 Hale or | | |
| 16 Barrel stop | 16 Mowbray | | |
| 17 Music for two | 17 Attack | | |
| 18 Turn it | 18 Nimble | | |
| 19 Wine type | 19 Cuts or Bronco | | |
| | 20 Diles | | |

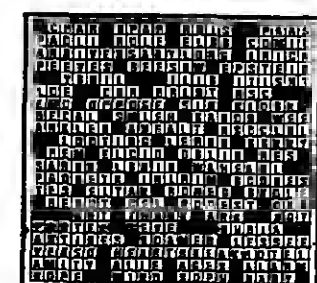


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. What compares to the sweet scent of flowers on a peaceful summer
2. Maiden's heart, shattered over lost love, healed fast with new flame.
3. Roosters crow and hens cluck, while chicks peep. All should shut up.
4. Bright child called a dog kennel a harking lot.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. JLP TOA OAOB JLPT AYHVVPX LP BELLC
OEHVFX ORPEPE. FRGOCA XFEOB VE EPG
FRPE. —By Earl Ireland
2. XTMT OVETCV HTZ XVGW. WXLIALI
SVGJXTLI ALPT FSALIE AR CARMH GLJ
GXRT OQJ RTC OZRALVRE. —By Gordon Miller
3. RZUARIY NIRAIFWAL MAINIEFN WE
CUMAYTH IRBEZUCR AIRBYAL NRUII
FB OCN MAINCHIEF. —By Ed Huddleston
4. DOWN BEAT IREXER WOYBE DOME WE
RYWRY. ULTY BXBIM UNBLAR. —By Norton Rhoades



Making folk triangles from music old farm tools

By Janet McConaughy
Associated Press

IOTA, Louisiana — The big hammer bangs the black steel again and again — the first step in shaping a horse-drawn hay-rake into an old-time Cajun Triangle, percussion instrument of Louisiana's folk bands.

"We used to straighten these things out with a sledgehammer," says Larry Miller, the instrument-maker. "But it takes one guy holding it with padded gloves and another guy with the sledgehammer."

"And you're got to do it very, very carefully."

His is a dying art. Miller, a gangling man who is the very picture of a country artisan, makes triangles, accordions, musical spoons and the bib-style washboards used in Zydeco, a cousin to the French Cajun-style music of this southern U.S. state.

His first instrument was the

Cajun Triangle, often called the "little iron" in this region where the folk music flourishes.

The name fits. But these triangles are bigger, heavier and more rough-hewn than those likely to be used by an orchestral percussionist. But then, this "little iron" is often still a Cajun band's entire percussion section.

It isn't easy making them, crafting them from steel rods and taper the ends to a coiled point. The work is hard, requiring a blowtorch and beating the metal into a point like a javelin's then setting it upright in a vise while Miller twists the end with pliers and beats it even more with a hammer.

Miller is proud of his work, since any twist or bend alters the sound.

"This thing vibrates like a tuning fork. All you've got to do is add a little bit to the end and slow it down," he ex-

plained.

There's no fixed size for a Cajun triangle: all it needs is a good, loud chime so it can be heard beating time for the accordion and fiddle.

Miller pulls a gently curved metal rod out of a pile in the big metal shed where he's set up a machine shop.

Wearing heavy gloves, plastic goggles and a set of ear protectors that look like stereo headphones, Miller lays the rod on the triphammer's anvil.

He slams the rod with the hammer, slowly creating a gentle curve.

The din fills the tin garage where Miller has set up his metal shop and where his five grown sons still sometimes work on their cars and boats.

He estimates that he makes 200 triangles a year, from big ones to little souvenirs, selling some to music stores and others at trade shows or at music festivals where he de-

monstrates how to make them.

He knows of two other men who make the triangles on a regular basis. One is a traveling musician who sells them at the places he plays; the other is homebound and sells to people who know about him, Miller said.

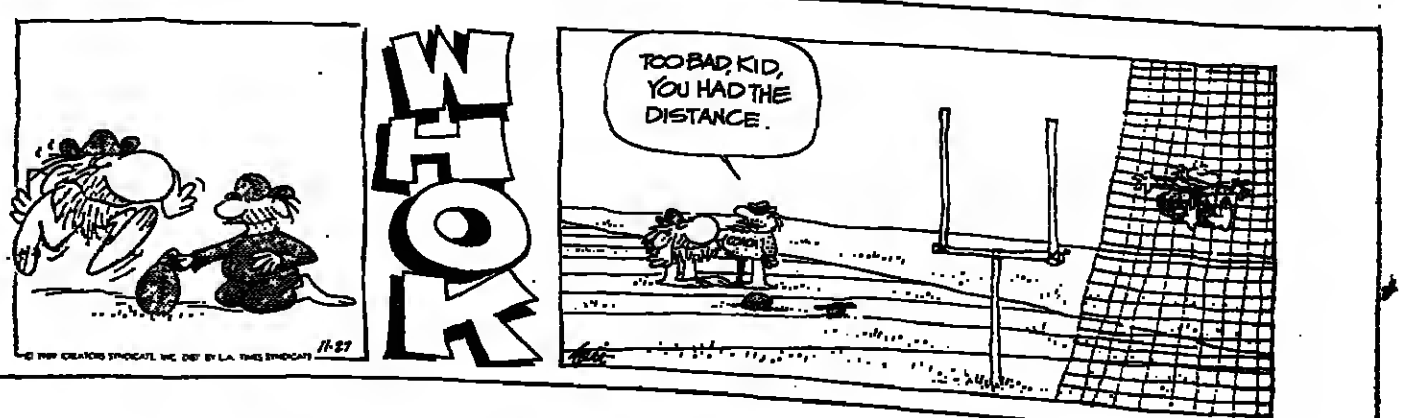
Hayrake teeth are used for those meant to be played because they sound right and they're available.

"The grade of steel they used in those hayrakes just happened to be the right one for sound quality."

Spring steel rods would be nice. But since steel mills aren't likely to sell small batches to them, they're available only after they've been turned into springs for cars and trucks, Miller said.

"General Motors might order 5 million that size. If I'm going to order 100 or 200, they're going to laugh at me," he said.

B.C.



French film maker finds angry childhood perfect for movies

By Karen Goldfarb
Reuter

NEW YORK — French film maker Diane Kurys says making movies is the best revenge.

The acclaimed director of the 1984 hit *Entre Nous* uses film to explore a troubled childhood. Her latest, *C'est La Vie*, (That's Life) is the last instalment of a trilogy about her adolescence and the breakup of her family.

"When I was growing up, I held things inside. I was angry and I suffered a lot," Kurys told Reuters in an interview. "At the time I wasn't writing, I was gathering, and I had a need to express. I told myself: 'I'll show them someday.'"

Set in the summer of 1948, *C'est La Vie* shows how a family breaks up from the perspective of two sisters.

Kurys returned to the French seaside resort where she spent her childhood summers to film the piece, bringing back a flood of memories.

"It's a great joy to go back to where you suffered, and make a film there. You're sort of master of the universe, and you can do anything you want."

Relaxed and friendly, the 42-year-old director said the film is basically autobiographical, although some events and characters have been invented.

"Mostly I was trying to find out what childhood was — what feelings I had," she said. "What I wanted was to write a film that was sad, but where you laugh a lot. I hope I succeeded because, in life, you don't cry all the time. You have to say, 'C'est la vie.' Life goes on."

"The film was a piece of life, a moment in life. It was big and deep and strong and painful, but it was just a moment."

After her parents divorced, Kurys, who was six, moved with her mother and sister from Lyon to Paris.

"Every night, I would lay awake, hoping and dreaming that my parents would get back together — like any child in the world would dream. I knew it was hopeless but still I hoped."

When she was 16, decided that her destiny lay in the theatre.

She worked as an actress for 8 years, but grew disillusioned. "I liked sleeping late and going out to restaurants, but I didn't like the acting," she remembers.

She was swept up in the excitement of the student movements in Paris in the spring of 1968, when she was 20. In a way, she says, the radicalising and energising effects of that period have never left her.

"It was great, it was wonderful, it was like 'this is our time,'" she says of that tumultuous period when students took to the streets, demanding revolution and change in French society.

"If I was 20 years old now, I wonder how I would feel. I know young people and they're a bit lost. Maybe I would be lost as well."

"I had a hope, had something to do, wanted to become someone. It's hard to say today. I'm going to become someone in this world" because now becoming someone means you have to be rich, which is sick."

She made her first film, *Peppermint Soda*, when she was 29. Based on her years in a strict girls school, it won the Prix Louis Delluc as Best Picture of 1977.

Kurys says it was her husband, Alexander Arcady, also a filmmaker, who gave her the courage to go out and become a director. "He simply said to me, 'you can do it,' and he pushed me."

That first day-shooting *Peppermint Soda*, she recalls, "I knew I was a director. I knew my vocation, that this was it. I couldn't think of anything better. I loved it."

While she loves filmmaking, Kurys does not dismiss the rigours of her profession lightly.

"It's not easy to make a film. It requires a lot of energy and sometimes, the anxiety — it's like beyond anxiety — it's overwhelming terror. Sometimes in the middle of making a movie, I ask myself, what am I doing here?"

"But the reward is when people tell you they've been touched by a film that you've made, that they've been moved. It's just very warm."

Now only films which have had a good run in cinemas are brought out as video for purchase and rental. Pioneers of this strategy were the market leaders, mainly subsidiaries of major American film companies.

At the beginning of the 1980s, when the video market really got going, in Germany there was the feeling that there was money to be made for the asking. The industry and profits boomed.

In 1986 there were more video shops than cinemas in the Federal Republic, more feature-length films were premiered in video than in the cinema. The number of video-users rose to almost 40 million and sales peaked at a record billion marks.

Then, two years ago, the situation began to go downhill. The decline has not slackened. The number of video rental shops has dropped sharply. Although a half of all households have video recorders, the number of video-shop customers stagnated and then declined.

The decline stirred up a hornet's nest in the industry, for the bosses of the various companies had promised certain growth as had happened in the U.S. and Japan. The causes for the decline were heatedly discussed, especially at the annual conference of the national video association. The answers concentrated on three fundamentals.

First, video shops are not regarded by a large proportion of the population as socially acceptable. Sixty per cent of customers come from low-paid groups in society. They are not particularly well educated and do not have particularly substantial expectations.

The comment from a major Munich video shop operator that most of his turnover was achieved with pornographic and horror films is significant.

Second, commercial television stations are providing programmes round the clock including violent action and soft pornographic films. It is getting more and more easy for people to tune into these programmes, partly by using an ordinary house aerial, so more and more are being recorded. This is less troublesome and considerably cheaper than hiring or purchasing pre-recorded videos.

Video magazines offer advice services with proposals when, where and how the most spectacular films can be recorded.

Third, viewing habits here are still very different from those in America or Japan. Neil Postman has already told us that in America people amuse themselves to death. According to the statistics every household has two and a half TV sets and one video recorder.

There is a corresponding obsession with the picture and optical quality. Films are no longer recorded on magnetic tape so much as on laser or compact discs, with the format of an LP or an acoustic CD. This technology will be introduced here by the end of this decade and will make the videos we know today outdated.

Many video rental companies are adopting new approaches to their customers and smartening up their range of videos available so as to give their business a serious image and inject new life into sales.

Classics such as *Ben Hur*, 2001 and *Some Like It Hot* can now be obtained by direct mail order, in department stores, and book and record shops. As with *Les Liaisons dangereuses*, as relatively new film which has now been issued on video in Germany, prices are less than DM40 for a cassette.

The video business has yet to get a reputable side to its business such as the book trade would lend it. The book business is hesitating before making decisions. There is also no certainty that the new measures will result in superprofits.

If they do get interested in the business cinastes will also benefit: they will be able to collect the works of their favourite directors and actors at prices which are within their means.

Videos also serve to retrieve the reputation of the art of the film. For instance Michael Camino's epic flop *Heaven's Gate*. The film was heavily cut for the cinema and boycotted. The uncut version is now available on cassette.

It is a fact, also, that the video is a special feature in the exploitation and financing of feature-length films. Films are no longer made just for the cinema screen. The number of viewers can be increased many times over by the screen, disc and cassette.

As a result video firms have an important word to say in the production of a film. It is anyone's guess if market interests of this kind have any influence on the quality of films produced. — Stuttgarter Zeitung.

Singapore woos film makers, aims for creativity in the '90s

By Reginald Chua

SINGAPORE — Singapore, better known for efficiency than spontaneity, in wooing film makers and setting up an Academy of Creativity Training in an effort to transform itself into the Hollywood of the east.

The reason? To create more jobs. And the desire of new Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong to turn Singapore into a more caring, culturally vibrant society.

But some industry officials don't believe creativity can flourish in an environment where films and plays are routinely censored and even the U.S. women's magazine *Cosmopolitan* is banned.

"In Hong Kong, we can do anything," said Hong Kong film star Eric Tsang, who has just completed filming a made-in-Singapore movie. "We have already talked to the Singapore Censorship Board and they said we can film anything here. But not show it here."

The state-run Economic Development Board (EDB), in its efforts to attract creative industries, is drawing up a master plan, to offering tax incentives and organising schools to turn out the craftsman and artists needed.

But sceptics say creativity does not appear on demand. "It goes completely against the rules to try and build up creativity like this," an expatriate television producer said.

"But I'm sure it will be a great success."

The EDB has rarely failed to attract the people and industries it wants to Singapore.

"EDB's job is job creation," a spokesman for the EDB said. "There is a lot of potential in the (creativity) industry."

So far, the EDB's efforts have paid off with Tsang setting up a film company here and Hong Kong tycoon Deacon Chiu building a 50 million Singapore dollar (\$29 million) film studio complex and theme park.

The Last Block is an action film involving a religious

guru with a rare blood-type who needs a life-saving transfusion which the Japanese Red Army guerrilla group tries to thwart. It recently premiered here as the first fruits of Tsang's company.

The film featured Singapore in the background of almost every shot, from its cable car to the colonial-style city hall.

"At first we did not have much confidence in making movies here so we brought a lot of people from Hong Kong," Tsang said. "For the next movie, we will bring less Hong Kong people."

He said a shortage of film production houses was also a handicap.

"The creative industry is

growing so fast, (it) is desperately short of everything," one industry source said. Scholarships and awards are in the works for budding local film makers, helped along by the EDB.

Films are only the tip of the iceberg.

Design services, publishing, graphic design, advertising and theme parks are all targets of the EDB's newly-formed Creative Services Strategic Business Unit.

Singapore, having first given priority to labour, capital and technology in its economic development drive, is now embracing creativity to push it through the next stage of development, officials said.

"We are at sort of a plateau now, and they (EDB) feel that they need creativity to push us into the ranks of developed nations," one industry official said.

But perhaps not so quickly. A fight scene in *The Last Blood* set on Singapore's cable car had to be shot in Hong Kong as the authorities here deemed it too sensitive to film. Seven people died in a cable car accident in 1983.

At least the manpower shortage seems to be easing, if only slightly. The Hong Kong crew outnumbered local staff five-to-one on the set of *The Last Blood*. The producers hope to reduce the ratio to one-to-one for the next film.

U.S. Navy officer sees combat in different hue

By Neil MacFarquhar

The Associated Press
DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia — U.S. Lt. Cmdr. Chip Beck sees battle differently than other officers. He looks for shadows in the desert sand, the furious red flashes of weapons fire and the faces of men fighting for their lives.

Beck is a combat artist. In an era of instant television reporting, Beck insists his is not a dying art.

"The object of video cameras and the photographers is often to capture the news, the event of the moment," he said. "I think in the best tradition of combat artists, we're here to capture history."

Beck, 45, is one of a number of artists deployed by each of the services. He is on 90-day reserve duty from his State department job as a political officer to chronicle the war for the navy.

Beck first began drawing

battles when he joined the navy in 1968 and served in Vietnam through the 1975 fall of Saigon.

He found that it was better to take a camera along and draw from pictures rather than try to draw in the heat of the moment.

"Either people, equipment or events are moving so quickly you haven't got time to sketch a lot," he said.

Often danger got in the way: "Sometimes I could

have gotten some great shots, but I was too busy surviving."

For his Saudi assignment, he is based on board the USS Blue Ridge, the command ship for the navy's 7th Fleet in the Gulf.

He left his pens on the ship and has been trying for days to get out to sea to get them.

While he waits, he amuses the press corps with cartoons that depict its frustration of trying to cover a war far from the front lines.

Fortunately, the Saudi battlefield is not yet filled with a full palette of colours. Here in the winter desert landscape, there is a lot of gray, with flashes of red or green.

Beck saw his first engagement last Sunday, when Marines shelled an Iraqi artillery position across the border in Kuwait.

"There's only about three colours out there," he said. "There is kind of shades of gray skies, dark brown lumps

that were the howitzers and the APCs (armored personnel carriers), and kind of a lighter brown that was the sand."

Beck said the most striking aspect of Saudi Arabia is the vast emptiness of the desert.

"What I hope to evoke later on is kind of broad panoramas of the landscape, the movement of men and machines and also so right down and focus on that one soldier," he said.

Video industry changes strategy

By Günter Jurczyk

THERE has always been a time lag in Germany between the appearance of feature films in the cinema and the release of the video cassette of the film.

In the former East Germany, videos were of old films only. In the Federal Republic, as it used to be, the delay between cinema and cassette was normally months.

The delay was to protect cinemas. But this is now changing. It has now been realised that the delay is too long and means that popular films quickly become forgotten, which in turn, harms the video side of the business as well.

Furthermore the horrendous prices for videos, sometimes as much as DM300 to DM400, were unacceptable. When videos first came out, it was easy to make a killing. That has changed.

Now only films which have had a good run in cinemas are brought out as video for purchase and rental. Pioneers of this strategy were the market leaders, mainly subsidiaries of major American film companies.

At the beginning of the 1980s, when the video market really got going, in Germany there was the feeling that there was money to be made for the asking. The industry and profits boomed.

In 1986 there were more video shops than cinemas in the Federal Republic, more feature-length films were premiered in video than in the cinema. The number of video-users rose to almost 40 million and sales peaked at a record billion marks.

Then, two years ago, the situation began to go downhill. The decline has not slackened. The number of video rental shops has dropped sharply. Although a half of all households have video recorders, the number of video-shop customers stagnated and then declined.

The decline stirred up a hornet's nest in the industry, for the bosses of the various companies had promised certain growth as had happened in the U.S. and Japan. The causes for the decline were heatedly discussed, especially at the annual conference of the national video association. The answers concentrated on three fundamentals.

First, video shops are not regarded by a large proportion of the population as socially acceptable. Sixty per cent of customers come from low-paid groups in society. They are not particularly well educated and do not have particularly substantial expectations.

The comment from a major Munich video shop operator that most of his turnover was achieved with pornographic and horror films is significant.

Second, commercial television stations are providing programmes round the clock including violent action and soft pornographic films. It is getting more and more easy for people to tune into these programmes, partly by using an ordinary house aerial, so more and more are being recorded. This is less troublesome and considerably cheaper than hiring or purchasing pre-recorded videos.

Video magazines offer advice services with proposals when, where and how the most spectacular films can be recorded.

Many video rental companies are adopting new approaches to their customers and smartening up their range of videos available so as to give their business a serious image and inject new life into sales.

Classics such as *Ben Hur*, 2001 and *Some Like It Hot* can now be obtained by direct mail order, in department stores, and book and record shops. As with *Les Liaisons dangereuses*, as relatively new film which has now been issued on video in Germany, prices are less than DM40 for a cassette.

The video business has yet to get a reputable side to its business such as the book trade would lend it. The book business is hesitating before making decisions. There is also no certainty that the new measures will result in superprofits.

If they do get interested in the business cinastes will also benefit: they will be able to collect the works of their favourite directors and actors at prices which are within their means.

Videos also serve to retrieve the reputation of the art of the film. For instance Michael Camino's epic flop *Heaven's Gate*. The film was heavily cut for the cinema and boycotted. The uncut version is now available on cassette.

It is a fact, also, that the video is a special feature in the exploitation and financing of feature-length films. Films are no longer made just for the cinema screen. The number of viewers can be increased many times over by the screen, disc and cassette.

As a result video firms have an important word to say in the production of a film. It is anyone's guess if market interests of this kind have any influence on the quality of films produced. — Stuttgarter Zeitung.

Competition — disappointments and misplaced hopes for most violinists

By Albrecht Roeseler

IF only you knew what a sea of tears, disappointments and misplaced hopes this competition is for most. An incredible amount of blood is spilled here. Tomorrow evening we shall know which of the nine of us is to be chucked out. More tears."

This was written by Russian violinist David Oistrach, then a 29 year old, in Brussels in 1937 in a note to his wife, Tamara. A few days later there was no mention of tears. Oistrach had won the first prize and his international career had begun.

Nowadays, there are a huge number of competitions at which competitors go through agonies. Some say there are too many, because they produce only prize winners and more prize winners.

There has been a proliferation of music competitions from Genoa to Moscow, from Indianapolis to Brussels, to name just a few of the most important violin competitions, which makes their value dubious.

In 1990 in the course of a few months there are a dozen competitions and almost all of them awarded a first prize allegedly a guarantee for

an international career.

A dozen people with first-rate talent cannot be produced magically out of the hat in the course of 12 months. There is a lot to be said for the proposal, made jokingly by Ida Haendel, that there should be a competition of prize-winners to find the prize winner who was really a major talent as a violinist.

She is the grande dame among virtuoso performers and made this suggestion after the meagre results of the Sibelius competition in Helsinki. She was herself a child prodigy. At seven for fun, she took part in the Winiawski competition in Warsaw, which was then decided in favour of Ginette Neveu and David Oistrach.

In the first decades of this century there were few competitions, but there were still any number of prodigies who appeared before audiences in the New and Old World. There was Heifetz and Mischa Elman, Erica Morini and Huberman, Seigeti, Ricci and Menuhin, and any number of others whose early fame quickly paled into insignificance.

All of them appeared in public for the first time under the age of ten. Ida Haendel

told her jury colleagues at the ARD competition in Munich two years ago: "Naturally we played Brahms, Tchaikovsky and Glazunov at nine. When else could we have played these works?" At this competition, with effort, two violinists worthy of a prize were found from among the 30 finalists.

This year there was no first prize awarded at Helsinki. But that was reasonable and natural. It takes place in December so it cannot be expected that there are many hopeful competitors after competitions in Genoa (the Paganini competition), London (Carl Flesch), Moscow (Tchaikovsky competition), Geneva and Indianapolis and a few others have exhausted potential competitors.

It was reasonable not to award a prize in Helsinki for it could quickly get a reputation that because there are no serious competitors one can in a twinkling of an eye become a prize-winner.

The Sibelius competitions in the last for violinists in the year, but despite this there were still 83 entrants. Most of them could claim previous successes and had glowing references from famous teachers with recordings of

their achievements.

Eventually 67 applicants were accepted for the competition and 42 actually turned up. After a week there were only eight in the running.

A Chinese violinist who had the most glowing references fell by the wayside in the first round.

The first appearance, often only lasting one 30 minutes and decisive for further participation is the competition, is the trickiest.

In all the obligatory stages one has to try to stand out, naturally in the most advantageous manner and not jarringly. Anyone who leaves behind the impressions of being shy and withdrawn is quickly forgotten.

Then, anyone who appears as if he or she were sure of victory is listened to with great care to discover weaknesses. Experienced members of a jury quickly discover who has the famous field marshal's baton in his or her knapsack.

It is interesting to note that it is not only young candidates who go from one competition to another but the same international jurists find themselves together marking down scores.

In the piano competition is Sydney 20 competitors failed the first round, leaving 20 finalists. For fun two members of the jury selected six competitors who, in their view, were suitable as finalists. They placed their lists in sealed envelopes.

At the end of competition the envelopes were opened and it was discovered that both lists were identical, five of them were awarded top prizes, and the sixth, because of memory failure at the last moment, played as if it were a matter of do or die. But that can also come to grief.

In the Helsinki finals the Sibelius violin concerto was played eight times. Everyone has to go through this violin marathon, even the public, for the competition is not only named after the great Finnish composer but in Finland he is regarded with enormous reverence. None of the eight finalists were completely convincing. If a performer seemed to be musically persuasive, he or she looked technique. If the player performed swiftly it became soppy and just as quickly the player became boring.

The performances were accompanied by the two Helsinki ensembles, the radio

and philharmonic orchestras. They frequently seemed unsure of themselves, although they were directed by Herr Saraste and Herr Commissiona.

The jury was made up mainly of Scandinavians, but the jury preferred to accept the fact that there was a lack of talent, rather than award a prize to a finalist which was undeserved.

In any event there was no one among the finalists who measured up to previous winners such as Oleg Kagan, Liane Issakadse or Viktoria Mullova.

The proliferation of competitions and prizes becomes more and more threatening. It seems as if the younger generation of musicians are attracted to competitions because of the financial rewards offered if they win.

Next October the Hanover competition named after Joseph Joachim will offer the winner DM110,500, if there is one.

But the patrons, sponsors and financiers who shell out such sums of money generally want a little recognition for their good works.

At the string quartet competition in Evian, France, no ensemble was found suitable

for the special prize offered by the French Minister for the Arts.

Then the bad news arrived. The minister announced that he would appear at the competition. He said that the prize had to be awarded, otherwise there would probably not be a prize offered next year.

So the organisers rummaged through the wastepaper basket and eventually found a quartet which had been forgotten and the minister's prize was awarded, but there were protests about this dubious way of going about things. It is said that he who pays calls the tune, but he should sometimes have the courage to bow out.

There is just a word to be said about German musicians. Immediately in the post-war years they did not play much of a role in the list of international competition victors. While talented musicians such as Kremer, Zukerman or Perlman (to remain with the same discipline) were climbing the ladder of success after their spectacular victories in New York, several musicians of world class were quietly being trained.

There was some fuss about Anne-Sophie Mutter after

her successes in Salzburg with the orchestra directed by Karajan, but Frank Peter Zimmermann and Ulf Hoelscher, for years stars of the podium and recordings, have kept their distance from competitions, which is also true of the Austrian, Thomas Zehetmair. This is the case of former prodigies. When the delicate Midori mounted the podium for the first time at 15 the musical world opened its eyes and pricked up its ears, although Heifetz and Menuhin had ten years of an inter-continental career behind them at that age. There is no fundamental law which lays down that those among who develop quietly, or who move from competition to competition, will eventually set out on an international career.

Talent is simply the basic on which other hardly less important factors can be built up: emotional stability and physical fitness have become just as decisive as the gift to make nimble fingers produce convincing music.

The great Jascha Heifetz combined these two basic qualities. He said that playing the violin required the nerves of a bull-fighter and the concentration of a Buddhist monk. — Süddeutsche Zeitung.

Germany alarmed by sharp rise in drug abuse, deaths

By Erik Kirschbaum
Reuters

FRANKFURT — Drug abuse is on the increase in Germany and authorities fear the worst may be yet to come.

A record 1,436 Germans died from drug overdose or addiction last year, nearly double the number of deaths in 1989 and more than four times as many as in 1985. Officials estimate the number of German drug addicts has grown to 80,000 from 50,000 two years ago.

Police fear that efforts to stem this rise in drug abuse will be made more difficult by the relaxation of border controls when the 12 European community (EC) countries introduce a single market in

1992.

"Markets in North America had become saturated, and in order to grow, those who sell drugs had to expand to Europe," said Hartmut Jaufmann, spokesman for the Federal Criminal Office in Wiesbaden.

"Europe is financially strong, with a lot of purchasing power. Since the mid-1980s there's been a constant rise in drug consumption in spite of increased efforts to counter it."

German crime officials said although the number of drug addicts and drug-related deaths in Germany is low compared to the United States, there has been an increase in the flow of drugs into the country since the mid-1980s.

"The problem in Germany is still not that large based on the numbers, but the increase is definitely threatening," said Bonn Health Ministry official Helmut Butke.

Butke said the government will spend some 60 million marks (\$40 million) in 1991, four times the amount spent in 1989, on prevention and measures to cut the flow of drugs from abroad.

But he fears that will hardly slow the rising tide.

"The EC's single market will bring advantages not only for free economic trade, but for the illegal drug trade as well."

controls before the Berlin Wall was opened in 1989.

"There was no market for drugs in East Germany or East Berlin because of the wall," said Berlin police spokesman Peter Glaser. "It's still a virgin territory but it won't be long before there are drug overdoses there too."

Frankfurt, Germany's financial capital, has become a centre for drug use and dealing — a record 108 drug abusers died in the city in 1989, compared with 31 in 1985.

"Because of its central location ... its international airport, the city is a centre for international trade," said Werner Schneider, a city official charged with fighting the drugs problem.

"For many of the same reasons, it has become a centre for the illegal drug trade," Schneider said.

Drug enforcement officials say many of the drugs reaching continental Europe are brought in through Frankfurt airport.

About half the two tonnes of cocaine Frankfurt police seized last year were impounded at the airport.

Frankfurt is home to about 8,000 addicts, about the same number as in Berlin, which has a population of around three million. Frankfurt has 600,000 inhabitants.

The concentration of drug addicts and dealers at Frankfurt's Central Railway Station seems out of character in this otherwise orderly city, best known for the glistening sky-

scrapers which house Germany's major banks.

Thousands of commuters pass through a shopping arcade under the station each day as addicts openly buy and use heroin, cocaine and other drugs.

"A large number of the victims are found in the toilet at the train station and in hotel rooms near the station," said city police spokesman Franz Winkler.

"They buy their stuff there and use the 'privacy' of the toilet stalls."

Winkler said about two-thirds of the city's drug-related deaths last year were from heroin overdoses, with cocaine, mixed drugs, and AIDS accounting for most of the remaining deaths.

Smoking deaths top 400,000 yearly as old habits take toll

By Robert Byrd
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — More Americans are quitting smoking, and more are dying — now more than 400,000 a year — as the habits of the 1950s and '60s take an increasing toll, federal health officials have said.

The National Centres for Disease Control (CDC) reported that 434,175 Americans died from smoking in 1988, up 11 per cent from the 390,000 deaths attributed to smoking in a 1985 study.

Those numbers reflect a steady, deadly trend, CDC researchers said. Back in 1965, the calculated toll from smoking deaths was 188,000. "The problem is, we are now paying for what happened 20, 30 years ago, when large numbers of people smoked in large amounts," said Dr. William Roper, director of the Atlanta-based CDC.

"Even though the percentage of Americans now smoking is lower than in the past, the burden of the past practice is coming clear."

That burden includes more than 100,000 annual deaths from lung cancer, the leading cause of smoking-related deaths, Roper noted. The CDC reported 111,985 smoking-related lung cancer deaths for 1988, up from 106,000 in 1985 and 38,100 in 1965.

"It takes 10, 20 years for the cancer caused by smoking to result," he said.

Smoking also resulted in 43,896 other cancer deaths, such as mouth cancers and pancreatic cancer, in 1988; 201,002 deaths from car-

diovascular diseases such as heart disease and arterial disease; and 82,857 deaths from respiratory diseases such as bronchitis and emphysema, among other causes.

The CDC also said 3,825 Americans died from lung cancer caused by others' smoking, or passive smoke. But the CDC's statistical formulas do not yet include passive smoking deaths from heart diseases, which a recent study estimated at 37,000 a year.

Roper said health officials hope the death toll from smoking will decrease, given recent trends toward stopping smoking.

CDC researchers estimate that about 29 per cent of Americans smoke, down from 30 per cent in 1985 and 40 per cent in 1964, the year of the landmark surgeon general's warning against smoking.

"We've seen a reduction in smoking percentages for several years now, and I hope that by the year 2000 ... we're going to begin to see a decline in actual numbers of smoking-attributable illnesses and deaths," Roper said.

CDC surveys show that women are slower to give up the habit than men and that Americans younger than 44 smoke more than older people.

The CDC also said the 1988 death rate attributable to smoking was 12 per cent higher for blacks than for whites.

Roper said that although the death toll continues to climb from previous years of smoking, heavy smokers can still improve their chances if they kick the habit.

Dutch enlist soluble plastic to cure bone fractures

By Jerome Socolovsky
The Associated Press

GRONINGEN, Netherlands — People suffering from broken facial bones may soon be spared needless surgery if the plastic screws, plates and rods developed by Dutch researchers are approved for general use.

Treatment for a broken limb usually involves setting it in a plaster cast and waiting a few weeks to several months as the fracture heals.

Patients with facial fractures often need complicated surgery, in which a doctor fixes the shattered bones with stainless steel screws, plates and braces.

But the drawback of that method is that the patient usually has to undergo two operations, one to implant the steel component and another to remove it, according to University of Groningen researcher Fred Rozema.

In a five-year-long programme, Rozema and his colleague Ruud Bos used bone implants made of a type of plastic that will eventually dissolve into water and carbon dioxide, Rozema said.

Because the material melts away after about two years, there is no need for a second operation, Rozema said in a telephone interview.

Dr. Rolf Bloem, an orthopedic surgeon at the

Leiden University Hospital, said the disintegrating implants can be a "very suitable alternative" to current treatment methods.

But he cautioned that the main challenge would be making them strong enough for use throughout the body, because "very few fractures are in the facial area."

Rozema, an oral surgeon, said screws and plates made of the material had been used on about 50 people with facial injuries, and all of the fractures healed without any serious problems.

"The only unwanted side effect we saw was some slight intermittent swelling, but there was no need to remove the material (and) we think

we have a clue to that problem," he said.

Rozema and Bos are publicising the study's findings in a thesis, "resorbable Poly (L-Lactide) bone plates and screws: Tests and application."

Parts of the projects were published in the Journal of Oral Maxillofacial Surgery, A U.S. publication, in 1989.

Poly (L-Lactide), or PLLA, is a brittle, milky-white material which is about half as strong as metal. It derives from lactic acid, which occurs naturally in milk and other foodstuffs and can also be made artificially.

Rozema said PLLA had been used by French and

Finnish groups to make tiny pins which were used for very small, hairline-type fractures near the end of a bone.

He added the Dutch project succeeded for the first time in developing the material into screws and plates which he claimed would ultimately be made strong enough to take the strain of leg and arm fractures.

Because PLLA-treated fracture patients don't need a second operation, they suffer much less psychological stress and discomfort, said Rozema.

The innovation would also eliminate the risk of certain types of cancer and poisoning are being increasingly associated with the presence of

metal objects inside a person's body, he said.

The researcher claimed most of his patients' bones grew even stronger than they would have with metal implants because their fractures healed at a steadier rate.

If approved for general use, the implants would be generally available for patients with facial bone damage in about two years, and cost the same as their metal predecessors, Rozema said.

He conceded he did not know when stronger and heavier PLLA implants would be on the market.

"I must admit that we are still in a very experimental phase," he said.

2 cancer victims treated with genetically altered cells

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two patients at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have become the first to be treated for cancer using cells that have been genetically altered. Dr. Steven A. Rosenberg, a National Cancer Institute Physician, said the experimental technique was used on a 29-year-old woman and a 42-year-old man.

The declined to identify the patients further, but said "both tolerated the therapy well and are resting easily now."

Both patients are suffering

from melanoma, the so-called "black mole" skin cancer. The disease is a particularly vicious form of skin cancer and neither patient has responded to other therapy.

The cells that were injected into the patients had been altered by the insertion of a gene that causes the cells to produce tumor necrosis factor, or TNF, a powerful natural antitumor toxin.

The transfused cells are called tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes, or TIL, a type of white blood cells that naturally move into a cancer site and attack tumors. The cells were removed from the tumors, armed with the tumor necrosis factor gene and then cultured until they numbered in the billions. Then the cells were injected into the patients.

Rosenberg and his team have received approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat up to 50 patients with the gene therapy

technique. All of the patients are suffering from melanoma and are not expected to live.

The physician emphasised that the technique is still "highly experimental" and it may take many months and a number of patients before it is known if the gene therapy will successfully treat cancer.

Before it was approved, the experimental gene therapy proposal was considered by six different committees organised by the NIH. It received FDA approval for limited use late last year.

Another form of gene therapy was approved on Sept. 14 for the treatment of an extremely rare inherited immune system disorder called Adenosine Deaminase Deficiency Disease. That study's first patient, a 4-year-old girl,

received a transfusion of her own white blood cells after a gene to correct the disorder had been inserted into the cells.

Rosenberg said that the progress of the 4-year-old is still being monitored, but no other patient has been treated for the immune system disorder.

Rosenberg has been using unaltered TIL cells to treat melanoma since 1987. The cells naturally migrate to tumors and have some cancer-fighting ability. But Rosenberg said they seemed to help only about half of the patients and the rest die of the disease.

To strengthen the treatment, Rosenberg and his team used genetic engineering techniques to insert into

the TIL cells a gene that makes the tumor necrosis factor. The scientists also put into the cells a gene that is resistant to Myacin antibiotics, for use as a marker in monitoring the treatment.

Experiments in mice showed that the TIL-TNF altered cells were very powerfully active against cancer cells. But the laboratory animals are able to tolerate 40 times more of the TNF than are humans. And, Rosenberg said, it takes a high dose of the substance to kill tumors.

By inserting the gene that makes TNF into the TIL cells, he said, the cancer fighter is carried to the tumor. Once there, the gene starts making the TNF that fights the cancer directly and applies a high dose only where it is effective.

Vets turn increasingly to homoeopathic solutions to treat animals

By Annelies Furtmayr-Schuh

VIEWS differ on whether homoeopathic medicine works on animals, but veterinary surgeons are making increasing use of it.

This gentle medicine is extremely popular with horse-owners and in practices that specialise in treating pets. Pet-owners are merely following a trend preferred by human patients.

Human patients are most keen on alternative medicine, and about 70 per cent of general practitioners in West Germany use techniques that are not scientifically approved.

They include acupuncture, nature cures and homoeopathy; farmers are keen on homoeopathy for economic reasons.

As laboratory tests grow more exhaustive and legislation banning chemical residues in foodstuffs grows stricter, farmers have to wait longer before they can sell meat, milk or eggs from animals to which drugs have been administered.

The aim is to protect the consumer from traces of drugs

in the food he eats, but factory farming is often the loser. Chemically speaking, homoeopathy leaves no traces. So it suits farmers fine.

Homoeopathy is a technique that was developed by Samuel Hahnemann, a Saxon doctor, chemist and druggist, about 200 years ago.

It is an established treatment with an officially acknowledged and supervised pharmacopoeia, but views differ on whether its methods are scientifically proven.

Unlike conventional medicine, which Hahnemann called allopathy, homoeopathy does not fight individual, exactly defined diseases. It aims to stimulate the body's self-healing capacity.

Drugs prescribed would, if taken in high doses, trigger the very symptoms from which the patient is suffering. But they are prescribed in doses so small as to defy laboratory analysis.

Homoeopathic practitioners say their treatment works. They refer to case history archives and say homoeopathy works on children and animals, both arguably immune to the powers of suggestion.

But the evidence they sup-

ply does not come up to the exacting criteria of scientific methodology. The results in most cases are not borne out statistically.

But times are changing. The efficacy of homoeopathic treatment has been undergoing scientific trials for several years or faculties of veterinary medicine in, say, Hanover and Berlin.

Staff at Schwarzenbek veterinary clinic in Schleswig-Holstein, a unit of the Free University of Berlin, are checking whether homoeopathy outperforms conventional medicine on the farm.

They are testing which treatment is best at drying pedicure dairy cows before they calve and in treating post-natal complaints and mastitis, and similar tests have been carried out on pig farms.

Vet Ute Seifert shows in her Ph.D. that piglet producers who rely on homoeopathy to treat MMA syndrome, a kind of puerperal fever in farrowing sows, have lower medical costs and fewer animal losses.

MMA, short of mastitis, metritis and agalactia, strikes fear into the hearts of pig farmers, especially in areas

where factory farming is widespread.

Their losses can be measured in terms of piglets lost and of weight not gained by the offspring of sick sows. Up to 80 per cent of piglets die if sows aren't treated in time.

Schwarzenbek veterinary clinic staff treated 64 sows suffering from MMA on 21 farms. Some were conventionally treated, others were given homoeopathic drugs.

Conventional treatment consisted of antibiotics and sulphonamides, hormones and drugs designed to reduce fever and to limit pain.

Homoeopathic prescriptions, never an easy task, were made out by three of Germany's most experienced homoeopathic vets, Wolter, Rakow and Greiff.

They were administered in liquid form and in potencies ranging from D3 to D12 (the higher the number, the greater the dilution).

Animals that showed no signs of improvement after their second homoeopathic treatment were to be given conventional drugs, but only one out of 33 sows needed to make the change.

Medically, homoeopathy

was found to be the equal of conventional treatment. Economically, the results were even more striking. Only as many piglets were lost, and the survivors put on more weight when their mothers were given homoeopathic medicine.

Animals were reported to be up and about — and eating — sooner than after a course of antibiotics, and similar findings have been reached with poultry.

Poultry service veterinary surgeons of the State Veterinary Department in Heidelberg, Baden-Württemberg, have been comparing conventional and homoeopathic treatment for nine years.

The use of antibiotics on battery farms has been reduced to less than 10 per cent of the 1977 level. Homoeopathic drugs have almost entirely replaced antibiotics in treatment of battery hens and turkeys.

Yet while vets and farmers have now found a means of producing food with fewer traces of drugs, European Community officials in Brussels have jeopardised progress at the stroke of a pen.

A European Commission proposal on a Community

directive on homoeopathic drugs has deleted from Article 7, which lists drugs exempted from stringent registration procedures, the very drugs that have been found most useful on battery farms.

They could no longer be freely administered by needle unless they had first been tested and registered like conventional drugs. This unrealistic proposal would not even make medicine safer.

Vets would be left with no choice but to dilute drugs themselves and inject them on the farm, transferring the process from the sterile laboratory to the unsterile farmyard, with a self-evident risk of impurities and infection.

Little is yet known about how homoeopathic drugs work. Scientists are usually reluctant to deal with homoeopathic potencies, which unlike conventional drugs are not the less effective as they are more diluted.

From D 23 on, homoeopathic solutions contain not a single molecule of the original substance. Scientists find this idea most suspicious.

Günther Harisch of the department of physiological chemistry at Hanover Veter-

inary College does not share this reluctance.

He and Michael Kretschmer are the authors of the newly-published book entitled *Jenseits vom Milligramm — die Biochemie auf den Spuren der Homöopathie* (Beyond the Milligramm — Biochemistry Tracks Down Homoeopathy).

In it they describe the effect of various homoeopathic drugs on immune cells and on individual enzymes and enzyme systems in healthy animals.

Animals are kept under strictly supervised conditions. At the same time every day they are given milk sugar tablets sprayed with homoeopathic drugs, such as zinc, in D4, D6, D8, D12, D30, D200 and D1,000 potencies.

Another group is given untreated tablets and a third is given none. A week later research scientists take from the animals' abdomens sample cells that share the animals' immune responses and allergies.

Histamine is a substance released in varying quantities under the influence of different zinc potencies.

Animals have a rich daily intake of zinc (1.3 millig-

rammes) in their fodder, but their histamine output is stimulated markedly by a week's intake of zinc D4, totalling 0.175 milligrammes, and zinc D6, totalling 1.75 microgrammes.

Zinc D8 was found to be less effective and higher potencies to have no effect whatever. But what is true of zinc is not true of phosphorus.

Lower potencies were found to be virtually ineffective, whereas higher potencies (D30 and D1,000, which contain no measurable quantity of phosphorus) more than doubled histamine output.

These findings reflect the response of the entire body to homoeopathic drugs. Research scientists use healthy animals, not cells on a slide or in a test-tube.

Professor Harisch feels homoeopathic drugs trigger a response from "functional body systems." Experiments fail to indicate which systems are involved, but they show that scientific research into homoeopathy is feasible.

He hopes his findings will prompt other scientists to follow in his footsteps. — Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

deprive us of our needs of oil and that was one way of imposing sanctions against us for no reason except to our basic position" of neutrality, he said.

But, he said, Jordan is "not willing to dance to the tune others play without being able to freely express our opinion, which we will not give up."

"If the battle is imposed on us we will be up to it," King Hussein said.

"This is a cry from a Hashemite Arab," the King said.

"Let us join our efforts to stop this tragedy and to save the people of Iraq from what is planned for it and to end this war."

Following is the full text of the King's speech:

Brother citizens, brother Arabs, brother Muslims, you who uphold your faith and refuse to see your nation humiliated; you who are truly sincere within yourselves and in your hearts and minds, and in your objectives, ideas and attitudes; you who are concerned for the present as well as the future generations of your nation, I greet every one of you with all affection.

I choose to address you at this very difficult moment, motivated by Arab honour and religious duty. I address you on the eve of the fourth week of this savage and large scale war which was imposed on brotherly Iraq, and which is aimed at Iraq's existence, its role, its progress and its vitality. It is also aimed at Iraq's right to a life of freedom and dignity, and its determination to fulfill its historic, cultural and human role which started in Babylon, Baghdad and Basra, and which contributed to human civilisation, scientific progress and culture.

Iraq, fellow Arabs and Muslims, now pays the price in pure and noble blood of belonging to its nation. Iraq had always hastened, without hesitation, to make sacrifices in all the battles which the Arabs fought, or which were forced upon them in defence of Arab land in Palestine, Syria, Egypt and Jordan. Arab blood was always dear to Iraq and shouldn't the blood of Iraqi men, women and children be dear to us? How should we be the Arabs who let Arab blood be spilt in this unjust war?

The world has known cruel wars, but never one like this that is waged against Iraq and the likes of which may never happen again. The armies of the biggest and most powerful nations have gathered and unleashed their modern and dangerous weapons on the land, in the sea, and in the sky. These weapons had originally been arrayed by the present international military alliance against an opposing alliance led by another super power. They are all now arrayed against the Baghdad of Haroun Al Rashid, the Basra of Islamic studies and poetry, the Kufa of Ali, may God's peace be upon him, the Holy Najaf, Karbala, Al Diwaniyah, Mosul, Kirkouk, and every Iraqi city and village. Fire rains down upon Iraq from airplanes, from battleships, from submarines and rockets, destroying mosques, churches, schools, museums, hospitals, powdered milk factories, residential areas, bedouin tents, electricity generating stations, and water networks. This bombing started from the first hours and took the form of a war that aims to destroy all the achievements of Iraq and return it to primitive life, by using the latest technology of destruction. The

first victims of this war were justice, righteousness and peace. Its first casualties were the aspirations of all humanity since the end of the Second World War, hoping that that war would be the last human tragedy, and that man would no longer be killer or victim. All the hopes of our nation and the world community were thwarted the day the land of Iraq was turned into the arena of the Third World War.

Brother citizens, brother Arabs, brother Muslims,

The irony of this war is that it is waged under the cloak of international legitimacy, and in the name of the United Nations, which was created to preserve peace, security and justice; and to resolve disputes through dialogue, negotiations and diplomacy. If this is an example of the future role of the United Nations in the new world order, what an ominous future lies before all nations! What international legitimacy will there be to protect the less powerful against the more powerful who seek to subjugate them, humiliate them, kill them, and usurp all their rights that were granted by God and protected by charter of the United Nations? We now realise fully the real reason why we, the Arabs, were deprived of our right to solve our problems, and why the United Nations was prevented from fulfilling its role, and why the doors were shut against any sincere political attempt to resolve the Gulf crisis. It is claimed that every effort possible was made to solve the crisis during the five months before the war. This is not true. If the effort that was spent in preparing for the war had been devoted to the quest for a peaceful settlement, this disaster would not have taken place. Moreover, the on-going war, with its destructive outcome, is incompatible with the humanitarian objectives of the United Nations resolutions which were adopted to restore peace and security to the Gulf region.

By contrast the Arab-Israeli conflict remained far from any honest and real attempt to resolve it justly. The Arab Palestinian people and the Arab Nation still await the implementation of a single United Nations resolution, which rejects Israeli occupation and calls for an end to it. Twenty-four years have passed since the occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights, and nine years have passed since the occupation of South Lebanon; but none of our hopes were fulfilled. Nevertheless, we did not despair of the United Nations. The major powers persisted in assuring us that a peaceful solution was possible. As regards the Gulf crisis, the Arab parties concerned chose from the beginning to reject any political Arab dialogue with Iraq, and to block any attempt that could prevent the internationalisation of the crisis and its resolution by directly dealing with all its causes and results. All the good offices of Jordan and others who were concerned for the future of our nation were aborted. Why? Because the real purpose behind this destructive war, as proven by its scope, and as attested to by the declarations of the parties, is to destroy Iraq, and rearrange the area in a manner far more dangerous to our nation's present and future than the Sykes-Picot agreement. This arrangement would put the nation, its aspirations and its resources under direct foreign hegemony and would shred all ties between its parts, thus further weakening and

fragmenting it.

The talk about a new world order, whose early feature is the destruction of Iraq, and the persistence of this talk as the war continues, lead us to wonder about the identity of this order and instill in us doubts regarding its nature.

The new world order to which we aspire holds all people equal in their right to freedom, progress and prosperity. It deals with their causes with the same standards and under the same principles, regardless of any consideration or influence. The required new order would not mete out injustice to any one nation. It would not discriminate between nations but draw them together within the framework of mutual respect and fruitful cooperation for the benefit of our planet and all people on it. It must be an order that believes in public freedom and protects private freedoms, respects human rights and strengthens the principles of democracy. It should not deny the Arab people their right to all this.

The nature of the military alliance against Iraq betrays its near and long-term objectives. For when Israel supports this alliance, when two countries, one Arab and other Islamic, both of which have normal, political relations with Israel, whose leaders compete for prominence in this alliance and reiterate their desire and enthusiasm for the destruction of Iraq, it becomes easy to realise that this war is a war against all Arabs and Muslims, not only against Iraq. When Arab and Islamic lands are offered as bases for the allied armies from which to launch attacks to destroy Arab Muslim Iraq, when Arab money is financing this war with unprecedented generosity unknown to us and our Palestinian brothers, while we shoulder our national responsibilities; when this takes place, I say that any Arab or Muslim can realise the magnitude of this crime committed against his religion and his nation.

Brother citizens,

From the very beginning we have shouldered our responsibilities to the Arab Nation and Islam, as well as towards international peace and security. We have made every effort to fulfill these responsibilities. We are not hurt because our rewards have been successive punishments to our country and people. It has become clear to the world that these punishments are the price which we must pay because we tried to avert the disaster which was planned and premeditated in the dark. As a new form of punishment there are now attempts to deprive us of our basic needs, even oil, as a new form of punishment, and one of the most severe, for no other reason than our principled stand. It is because we are not party to the conflict, nor part of the alliance, unwilling to dance to the tune others play, with no will of our own, no rights and no ability to express our free opinion. We would not forsake this right because it is equal in importance to our human right to breathe air that is not yet rationed. Nevertheless, Jordan's leadership and people will remain firm in their position and belief that the opportunity for peace still exists. Recourse to peace remains less costly and would reflect more truly the commitment to principles and values than the continuation of this devastating war.

The voices of millions can be heard in every country, including those of the alliance. They all call

for peace and an end to the killing of children, the destruction of homes, and the withholding of medicine from the sick. I know just as you do that against these voices stand political and military leaders, alas with Arabs in their forefront, calling for the continuation of this war. Which voices will win in the end? The voices of reason, peace and justice, or the voices of war, hatred and insanity?

We and other brothers who have made a loud call to stop military action and open the way for diplomatic political action to resolve the problem, but the call fell on deaf ears. Many a time before the war had started we warned against its effects, the deep wounds which it would open, and its repercussions which would grow and include human, economic and ecological tragedies. We warned that war is a measure of last resort, launched only after all efforts to avert it have been exhausted, nor calls and warnings were in vain.

Justice will be victorious, God willing, brothers, and our nation will prevail because, through its victory humanity will prevail against its enemies. Life will prevail over death. Love among nations will prevail over hatred. It will become clear to all those who gambled that our nation would be divided, like its leaders, that it is a dead nation, will be proven wrong. Our nation will remain, God willing, a strong, proud and vibrant nation. "These your people are one people and I am your God, so worship me alone" (Surat Al Anbiya' No. 92). Let us have fear of God and remember that. If this situation continues it will only benefit those who covet our lands and resources, with Israel at their forefront. There are already signs that the spoils are being divided. We hear and read every day of plans to control our resources, limit our freedom of decision, strangle our aspirations and usurp our rights. There is talk of proposed military alliances and foreign troops that will stay on Arab soil; of conditions that will handicap our progress; of a solution for the Palestinian problem which has been prepared or which will be prepared by others according to what they see, and according to the will of the powerful that is imposed on the weak, we cannot imagine that this solution would fulfill the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil.

This is a call from a Hashemite Arab to all honest Arab and Muslim leaders. Let us join our efforts to stop this catastrophe and save the people of Iraq from the fate that is planned for them. Let us save our nation from the plans that are designed for it. Let us bring this war to an end.

The starting point in all this is immediate and serious work to make the alliance accept a ceasefire, in preparation for a responsible dialogue between the antagonists: An Iraqi-American dialogue that resort to reason and balance interests against international legitimacy, the legitimacy of security, peace, justice and equality.

By destroying Iraq this war has exceeded the limits set by the United Nations in its resolutions. This is confirmed by the declaration of the alliance leaders. So where is the United Nations now? The alternative to a ceasefire is the destruction of Arabs and Muslims, their humiliation, their exploitation, the trampling on their honour, pride and legitimate hopes, and hatred and strife

between nations. We in Jordan will stay the Arabs of all Arabs, the noblest of the noble, the men of all men. We shall always stay united, army and people, alert to defend our country. If the fight is forced upon us we shall be up to it and gain one of God's two favours (victory or martyrdom). Our hearts are full of faith, and we thank God for everything.

From Amman of the Arabs I send to our people in Palestine our great pride in them, in their steadfastness, in their resilience against their suffering where a whole nation is under house arrest, without work, without a source of earning, without medicine. But it is a nation that believes in God and stands fast by the Aqsa Mosque and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

As for our people in Iraq, what words can describe their great courage and pride, their tenacity, and their ability to face 28 allied countries, 28 armies headed by the largest, most powerful, and best armed army of the world! To them we send our love and our pride as they defend us all and raise the banner that says God is Great, the banner of Arabs and Islam. We salute Iraq, its heroic army, its steadfast people, its glorious women, its brave children, and its aged, confronting with faith the bombers, the battleships and tonnes of explosives.

We send a special salute to His Holiness Pope John Paul II for his prayers and continuous calls for peace in the Middle East, and to all people and international figures everywhere who decry war and call for peace. A salute of pride to all our Arab and Muslim brothers in the five continents who came out from the first moments of war to make a stand for life and peace against death, destruction and aggression.

I pay a special debt of thanks to all those who search for truth and who work to spread it because they respect and care for truth. To all the newsmen, academics, and politicians who live among us and do their duty in honesty and professionalism.

Most of their conferings together are devoid of good, except such as enjoin charity, or the promotion of public welfare or of public peace; and on him who strives after these, seeking the gratification of God, shall we soon bestow a great reward (Surat Al Nisa' No. 114).

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Drivers

(Continued from page 1)

unload their rockets on anything," Mr. Mahmoud said.

Another driver in the convoy, Fawzi Suleiman, 35, said he saw two tankers in flames during a 600-kilometre journey from Iraq's Qaim oil depot to the Jordan border.

"It was random bombardment," he said with fervour. Mr. Mahmoud showed journalists the damage to his tanker. Oil leaked from a small hole in the tanker and pieces of shrapnel were embedded in six flattened tyres.

He said Tuesday's attack came near the bridge of Atassat in the Qaim area of northwest Iraq — "one rocket fell ahead of our convoy and the other in the back."

It was Mr. Mahmoud's second escape from allied bombing on the highway," last week, when they hit Al Rutbah, four of my colleagues died in front of my eyes. They were blown up into pieces and I could not help them.

I continued my journey and they died behind," he said.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler contended Monday Iraq was mingling military equipment with civilian convoys, making it difficult for U.S. planes to avoid civilians.

Despite the dangers, Mahmoud said he would continue ferrying oil from Iraq. Displaying four sharpened kitchen knives, he declared: "If I ever see an American pilot on my way I will tear his stomach apart, remove his kidney and throw it to a dog."

Overkill

(Continued from page 1)

Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh met Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas Tuesday and both sides condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, according to the official TASS news agency.

"The two ministers stressed the need for the earliest political settlement of the Gulf crisis, preceded by Iraq's unequivocal commitment to pull out of Kuwait," TASS said.

Moscow backs U.N. resolutions aimed at forcing Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait. But it has kept diplomatic channels open, largely through a skeleton staff of 13 in its Baghdad embassy.

Civilians

(Continued from page 1)

left in Baghdad on Wednesday

estimated civilian casualties running into thousands rather than hundreds since the war began.

The allies say the air war is being waged only against military targets but correspondents have visited residential areas in Baghdad and several provincial cities devastated by bombs and missiles.

In an earlier commentary, Baghdad Radio said attacks on Western interests worldwide would escalate.

"The jihad actions mounted by good Muslims against the imperialist interests will escalate each day," it said.

"We salute the believing mujahideen as they take a stand against the enemies of humanity, and the arms that tackle the imperialist interests," it said.

For the second straight day, Baghdad Radio Tuesday night broadcast cryptic messages, including "all of you, this is your day," and "implement the programme of last gathering."

Similar messages were broadcast Monday.

Iraq said it shot down two aircraft and one missile during 263 allied air raids on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

"The ravens of Bush raided our residential neighbourhoods," Baghdad radio quoted a military spokesman as saying. "The soundbells did not achieve any of their objectives."

Iraq's latest communique 38 on Tuesday night said nine allied aircraft were downed during 391

raids. Baghdad says its air defences have shot down nearly 300 enemy planes and missiles since the Gulf war began. The allies report only 30 planes lost, including 21 U.S. aircraft.

The Iranian national news agency IRNA, reporting from the border city of Khorramshahr, said buildings about 50 kilometres away shook as a result of huge explosions caused by allied bombs and missiles on southern Iraqi cities on Wednesday.

"The roar of the U.S.-led coalition planes is heard attacking Basra and other Iraqi southern cities every five minutes but the Iraqi air defence system is apparently silent."

Further north, IRNA reported "very active" anti-aircraft gunners shooting against allied planes raiding the Iraqi cities of Badra, Zubairiyah and Mandali.

U.S. F-15 fighters shot down two Iraqi SU-25 ground-attack planes and may have downed two MIG-21 jets Wednesday, a U.S. military spokesman said.

Brigadier-General Richard I. Neal said the Iraqi planes were detected by the F-15s on a combat air patrol.

"Preliminary reports indicate they were heading towards Iran," he told a regular daily briefing.

A Saudi spokesman had earlier said U.S. F-15s had shot down four of seven Iraqi MiG-21s fleeing to Iran. He said the other three had landed safely in Iran.

THE PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL



- FACILITATE PRESS PERMITS
- REUTERS NEWS SCREEN & TERMINAL
- ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS TERMINAL
- COVERAGE OF "WAR IN THE GULF" NEWS 24 HRS DAILY IN THE PRESS BAR ON THE 10TH FLOOR
- DIRECT INT'L TELEPHONES & TELEXES
- INDIVIDUAL TELEFAX LINES
- FULL SECRETARIAL SERVICES INCLUDING TRANSLATION FROM & TO ARABIC, ENGLISH, SPANISH, GERMAN, ITALIAN, & FRENCH
- AIRLINE RESERVATION & TICKETING
- SPECIAL PACKAGES FOR REPORTERS.

فندق فيلادلفيا
The Philadelphia
INTERNATIONAL HOTEL MANAGEMENT GROUP



FOR FURTHER INFO, PLEASE CALL SALES DEPARTMENT TEL: 663100 FAX: 665160

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
TEL: 604676 604696
P.O. BOX 7806 AMMAN

CROWN INT'L EST.

packing, shipping, forwarding, storage, clearing, door-to-door service

Agents all over the world
Tel: 664066, Fax: 664062
Tlx: 22285 BESMCO JO
P.O. Box 826467 AMMAN JORDAN

EASTERN

PAINTING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES, INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING AND AIR FREIGHT

TEL: 621 775 FAX: 656 270
TLX: 23 0 23 POB: 815 408
AMMAN-JORDAN

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:-

- JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Swehieh tel: 823891

4 Rent & Sale

Many villas and apartments are available for rent and sale - furnished or unfurnished.

Also many lots of land are available for sale.

For further details, please call

Abdoun Real Estate
Tel: 610605, 610603, Fax: 610520

RENT Saudi Real Estate

Furnished & unfurnished apartments & villas for rent in West Amman area.

CALL SOHA
Rental Dept. 687821/22

Ricardo

Amman's exclusive gift shop
Italian shoes, leather goods, perfumes, lighters, watches, pens, silverware, porcelain, crystalware etc.

Shmeisani - Grindlays Bank Bldg.
Tel. 669 457

For the best for your MONEY... ADVERTISE in the

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Aliyah Girls School
Take away is available

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30-Midnight
Tel: 638068

PEKING RESTAURANT

AUTHENTIC CHINESE CUISINE
elegant colorful atmosphere
moderate prices
Tel: 660250 (closed on Mondays)

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only

Tel: 818214
Come and taste our specialties
Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

Kashmir Restaurant

FIRST CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT
Special Executive Lunches
Take away service available

Open Daily 12:30-3:30 pm
7:30-11:30 pm

After the Philadelphia Hotel
Towards 3rd circle
Tel: 659519 659520

**فندق ريجنسي بالاس
The Regency Palace Hotel**

PRESS CENTER Facilities

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room...

DAROTEL
Amman - Tel 668193
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434
Telex 23888 DAROTL JO
Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

Jordan Times

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

"This is my job. This is my living. I accept those risks from day one," he said while patiently sucking on an orange. "If I need to explain it you wouldn't understand. You're not a fighter."

Morris, Leonard said, is going to be "my barometer. He's going to show me where I am, think he'll... of all the guys, I think he'll be the most skillful in my division."

It took several runs at the question but this proud fighter who won an Olympic gold medal nearly 15 years ago paused and finally acknowledged that he had made some concessions to ageing.

"There's more economical now (in the way he does it on the ring.) Your body gives off the same signals as when you're younger, but you didn't listen to them then. As you get older you listen to your body and you take a day off or spar two rounds instead of four rounds," Leonard said.

Leonard refused to acknowledge age much beyond that. He doesn't say that people shouldn't let a particular age "tell you what you can and can't do."

He refused to talk about retirement and when the question was posed a bit differently by asking him if he talked to retired fighters about when they knew it was time to get out of the ring, he said "No. I think it's contagious."

43	light	7	Urged	40	Zoo tiems	48	Slightly o
44	Del Inhabitant	7	Building in	41	Maroon	49	Best in
45	Program	8	Philadelphia	42	Married	50	Vehicle fo
46	abbr.	8	voyage	43	Companio	51	hirs
47	Dog	9	Slap in the	44	writing	51	fashio
48	Romance	10	face	45	Helen's	52	magazine
49	language	11	time	46	mother	52	Roe or d
50	Stopped	12	Shield border	47	Blue dye	53	Macaw
51	Finishes	13	Racehorse				
52	Musical gamut	15	(1950) leading				
53	Pickling	16	money				
54	spice	18	Napoleon's				
57	Wipe clean	18	Grande —				
58	Wheel shaft	20	—				
59	Selling word	24	More origi				
60	Face a	25	Used an oval				
61	chance	26	Plan				
61	Stadium part	27	Instrument				
		27	"A rose —				
DOWN		28	More foxy				
1	Horned vipers	30	Pilot				
1	Enrica	31	Slit				
2	tel	31	city				
4	Lukewisa	36	Established				
5	Western shows	37	Road surfac				
		39	Agency				

On the last trump West made a fatal error by discarding the ten of diamonds rather than the five of spades. The king of clubs was sluffed from the table and East, convinced that declarer held the missing spade, let go of the ace of clubs. Now declarer scored all three of her clubs to land the slam.

IS IT TRUE THAT ATTORNEYS ARE MORE LIKELY TO SUFFER DEPRESSION THAN OTHER PEOPLE?

I DOUBT IT...

AFTER A TRIAL, MY CLIENTS ARE ALWAYS MORE DEPRESSED THAN I AM...

© 1981 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

Treasury urges major reform to ailing U.S. bank industry

WASHINGTON (R) — The Treasury Department Tuesday proposed the most sweeping reforms of the ailing U.S. banking industry since the 1930s depression, aiming to prevent a repeat of the massive bailout of the nation's savings and loans institutions.

The long-awaited proposals would scrap depression-era rules that prevent commercial banks from dealing in the risky businesses of securities, mutual funds and insurance.

They would limit insurance on big bank deposits and allow banks to expand nationwide.

Banking reform has been under consideration for years but it has taken on added urgency as bank failures have increased and the fund that insures deposits has been rapidly depleted.

Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady told a news conference wide-ranging reform of banking laws would aid the economy by strengthening banks and helping them compete in world markets.

"We are trying to do something that strengthens the American banking system, provides more services to the consumer and makes sure we do something about the situation where the top U.S. bank (ranks) number 27 in the world," he said.

He expressed dismay that out of 30 of the world's largest banks, only one is American — Citibank. Twenty years ago, nine U.S. banks were ranked among the biggest and U.S. firms occupied the three top positions.

Brady also said laws restricting interstate branching of banks were outdated especially when the European Community was moving towards full integration. "A California bank can open a branch in Birmingham, England, but not in Birmingham, Alabama," he said.

The industry's current problems stem largely from real estate loans that soured with slumping land values as recession has tightened its grip on the economy. For

many institutions the real estate woes came after years of writing off problem loans to Third World countries.

Many analysts, however, believe U.S. banks can ensure their long-term future only if the government scraps the regulatory system devised during the 1930s, when millions lost their life savings amid financial upheaval.

The mass failure of banks in that era led to the creation of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which now insures each account held by a depositor up to \$100,000 at all member institutions.

In its reform proposal, the Treasury said deposit insurance had been extended well beyond its intended scope and should be limited immediately to \$100,000 per person at any one institution.

In the long term, the Treasury aims to set an insurance cap for each depositor regardless of the number of accounts at different banks.

The Treasury reform also

would mark the demise of the Glass-Steagall act, which separated commercial banking from other financial activities such as stock underwriting.

The 1933 law was passed to prevent banks from losing depositors' money in 000-banking activity that was deemed too risky. Recent legal changes have chipped away at the wall separating the two industries, permitting some banks limited ability to underwrite securities through subsidiaries.

Under the proposed reform, healthy banks would be allowed to enter the securities, mutual fund and insurance businesses. In addition, financial companies would be permitted to own financially sound banks.

The proposal to allow federally chartered bank companies to expand nationwide within three years is something long sought by big banks that have been hampered by regional economic problems and want to seek more diverse markets.

Report warns Japanese of recession if Gulf war spreads, cuts flow of oil

TOKYO (R) — A serious warning of the Gulf war resulting in major damage to Middle Eastern oil-fields could drive Japan's economy into recession, a bank-affiliated research institute forecast Wednesday.

Japan's gross national product (GNP) could fall by one per cent in the year starting April if Israel retaliates against Iraq and the Gulf war widens to include other Arab nations such as Syria, the Japan Research Institute said in a report.

Such a war could damage oil-fields throughout the Middle East and crude prices could jump to \$50 to \$100 a barrel as a result of a serious oil shortage, the Sumitomo Bank affiliate said.

An oil shortage would worsen Japan's economic fundamentals and the dollar could firm to 150 to 180 yen, it said.

Crude oil prices are currently around \$20 a barrel and the dollar is worth about 129 yen.

An escalation of the war could put Japan's current account into a deficit of some \$100 billion in 1991/92, it said.

The government has estimated that Japan's current account surplus in 1990/91 will narrow to \$32

billion from \$53.4 billion in 1989/90.

Wholesale prices could surge by more than 15 per cent and consumer prices by more than three per cent in 1991/92 from a year earlier, the report said.

If the Gulf war ended in about three months with no serious damage to major oil-fields, Japan's GNP growth in 1991/92 was likely to be 0.2 percentage points less than the expected growth of 3.7 per cent. Crude oil prices would move between \$20 and \$30 a barrel and the dollar would fluctuate in a 130 to 140 yen band, it said.

If the war caused some damage to oil-fields, crude oil prices could firm to between \$30 and \$40 per barrel and the dollar remain comparatively weak in a 125 to 135 yen band due to expectations of slack U.S. economic growth, the report said.

Given this scenario, Japan's 1991/92 GNP could grow at a rate of 0.7 percentage points less than the projected 3.7 per cent level.

A war lasting about three months, even with damage to oil-fields, would have limited impact on domestic prices, it said.

Iran sets new petrol prices, lifts controls

NICOSIA (R) — Iran Wednesday set new petrol prices and lifted the last restrictions on petrol sales imposed at the start of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980.

Tehran radio quoted Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh as saying motorists could now buy regular and premium petrol at 50 and 70 riyals (about four and six cents at the open market exchange rate) per litre, respectively, with no restriction.

The decision abolishes a two-price system in force since 1986, when motorists were allowed to buy unlimited amounts of regular petrol at 60 riyals (about five cents) per litre in addition to limited rations sold at half that price.

Premium petrol was rationed and priced at 80 riyals (about seven cents) a litre. Rationing was introduced in September 1980. Many of Iran's

oil production and refining facilities were damaged in the eight-year war with Iraq, forcing it to rely on imports for about a quarter of its needs for refined products.

Aqazadeh said the planned increase in capacity of war-damaged Abadan refinery to 280,000 barrels per day during the coming year was a factor in lifting the restrictions.

Changes in prices of other refined products would be announced in future, the radio quoted the minister as saying.

A senior official of the National Iranian Oil Co. (NIOC) said that Iran does not expect its oil exports to be disrupted by the Gulf war.

"I don't think that will happen — it's very unlikely," Javad Yarzani, general manager of crude oil marketing and exports, told Reuters.

Iran exports crude oil from Kharg Island in the northern Gulf, but Japanese shipowners and seamen's unions have agreed that Japanese-owned ships will not sail off Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

They have also banned Japanese ships from crossing west of longitude 52 degrees east in the Gulf.

Iran now offers a shuttle service to Lavan Island for ships unwilling to approach any closer to the war zone.

It charges 50 cents a barrel for the service, less than that which Japanese buyers say it costs for them to go all the way to Kharg. Industry sources say this fee is likely to be increased soon as it is uneconomical for Iran.

Yarzani said a giant oil slick in the Gulf had not had any impact on exports so far. But he said it

was difficult to judge the potential effect until it reached an export facility.

Yarzani, who will head NIOC's first Far East office in Singapore in the middle of February, said Iran is currently producing more than three million barrels per day (b/d) of crude oil. A Reuters survey put its output in December at 3.25 million b/d.

The government plans to increase production to 4.5 million b/d by the end of its five-year plan which started in March 1990.

Iran currently sells 700,000 to 750,000 b/d of crude oil and some fuel oil to the Far East as well, he said.

He said the initial aim of the Singapore office was to get a feel of the market and then perhaps become a trading centre for Iranian crude oil and products for this part of the world.

Gulf crisis cost Alitalia \$130m

ROME (R) — Italy's state airline Alitalia, declaring a further loss for 1990, said Tuesday the Gulf crisis had cost it more than \$100 million.

Company managers told a parliamentary commission the crisis had cost the company 143 billion lire (\$130 million) through increases in fuel prices and insurance premiums together with a loss of income from cancelled flights.

Alitalia's passenger bookings fell 22 per cent over the last part of

1990, after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August, and the company said the slump would continue through the first part of 1991, at least.

It said it had suffered massive cancellations for next Easter and summer and forecast a 17 per cent drop in flight bookings over the whole year.

The company declared a group loss of 97 billion lire (\$88 million) for 1990, down from 217 billion lire (\$197 million) the previous year.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES			
Wednesday, February 6, 1991			
Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	663.0	667.0	
Pound Sterling	1222.3	1230.2	
Deutsche mark	435.3	438.0	
Swiss franc	535.4	538.6	
French franc	133.8	134.6	
Japanese yen (for 100)	513.7	516.8	
Dutch guilder	404.1	406.5	
Swedish crown	121.4	122.1	
Italian lire (for 100)	60.6	61.0	
Belgian franc (for 10)	220.1	221.4	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.			
One Sterling	1.9935/45	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1585/95	Canadian dollar	
	1.4548/55	Deutschmarks	
	1.6395/6405	Dutch guilders	
	1.2401/08	Swiss francs	
	30.01/03	Belgian francs	
	4.9495/45	French francs	
	1093/1094	Italian lire	
	132.70/80	Japanese yen	
	5.4575/25	Swedish crowns	
	5.6900/50	Norwegian crowns	
	5.6000/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	361.00/361.50	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS	
By Reuters	
SYDNEY — The All Ordinaries Index closed 5.8 points down at 1348.6. "The Majority of buy orders were from overseas, and after they were completed by mid to late morning, most activity stopped," said an Australian dealer.	
TOKYO — The market closed firmer but sharply off its highs as a morning rally quickly lost steam. The Nikkei closed up 130.47 or 0.55 per cent at 23,952.	
HONG KONG — Prices closed higher after rebounding from a light profit-taking session around midday. The Hang Seng gained 20.05 to 3,365.46.	
SINGAPORE — Prices closed mixed after profit-taking alternated with selective bargain-hunting in active trade. The Straits Times industrial index slipped 0.82 to 1,286.17.	
BOMBAY — Prices closed mixed after the exchange relaxed curbs on trading, allowing greater liquidity. The BSE index fell 8.42 to 1,061.87.	
FRANKFURT — Prices closed 0.7 per cent lower after a quiet, featureless session. The Dax fell 10.16 to 1,428.69.	
ZURICH — Swiss shares finished mostly easier but off the day's lows in moderate trading. The all-share SPI Index fell 7.9 to 939.5 and the Blue Chip SMI Index 17.5 to 1,455.1.	
PARIS — Profit-taking nibbled away at stocks but prices finished only slightly lower as investors continued to inject cash into the market. The CAC-40 Index fell 8.27 to 1,598.11.	

Central banks join to back ailing dollar

LONDON (R) — European central banks joined the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) to buy dollars Wednesday in concerted market intervention after the American currency touched an all-time low of 1.4335 marks, dealers and monetary officials said.

Dealers in New York said the U.S. central bank bought dollars there at around 1.4570 marks. The central banks of Spain, France, Italy and Austria also announced they were buying dollars. Dealers said Germany's Bundesbank was in the market too.

Despite the intervention, the dollar began falling again. It was quoted near its low of 1.4335 at

1530 GMT.

Against the Japanese currency it was quoted at 129.85.

On Tuesday, the Fed acted alone four times to support the currency, while nine central banks joined it to prop up the dollar Monday in the first such concerted action since early last year.

The dollar was hit late last week by the combination of a half percentage point cut in the U.S. key discount rate to six per cent and an increase in two key German rates.

Some dealers said signs of weak U.S. economic performance might prompt a further cut in U.S. interest rates.

Pan Am to cut 4,000 jobs due to Gulf war

NEW YORK (AP) — Pan Am Corp. said Tuesday it would cut 4,000 jobs and reduce service to Europe because of the sharp decline in air travel due to the Gulf war.

The struggling airline said it was not eliminating any European destinations but reducing the frequency of flights, combining destinations and using smaller airplanes.

"The precipitous decline in demand for trans-Atlantic travel requires painful action," Pan Am Chairman Thomas Plaskett said in a statement.

"We cannot absorb revenue loss without taking severe steps to lower our costs commensurate with the reduced revenue," he said.

Pan Am said the total personnel cuts includes employee trans-

fers and reductions related to Pan Am's sale of its London routes to United Airlines, a deal scheduled for completion later this month.

The carrier said nearly all of the cuts will occur at its principal subsidiary, Pan American World Airways, which has reduced its trans-Atlantic schedule more than 35 per cent because of the war-related malaise.

Earlier this month, before the United Nations Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait, Pan Am suspended service to Israel, Saudi Arabia, Greece, Turkey, Pakistan and Kenya.

Pan Am said it had replaced 112-seat Boeing 747 with 192-seat A310s on destinations to Europe. Pan Am now serves 30 cities in Europe and India, and said it would combine destinations on one flight to further cut costs.

TODAY AT

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

Nabila Obeld / Salah Sadani
In
The Path of Fear
Arabic

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

★ **LAMBADA**
Show: 3:30, 6:45, 8:30
★ **AVENGER**
Show: 5:15, 10:30

Performances: 3:30, 5:00, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

MANIAC COP

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

Cinema **NIJOU** Tel: 675571

TOTAL RECALL

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 10:30 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

IN THE LINE OF DUTY "4"

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15

Central banks join to back ailing dollar

LONDON (R) — European central banks joined the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) to buy dollars Wednesday in concerted market intervention after the American currency touched an all-time low of 1.4335 marks, dealers and monetary officials said.

Dealers in New York said the U.S. central bank bought dollars there at around 1.4570 marks. The central banks of Spain, France, Italy and Austria also announced they were buying dollars. Dealers said Germany's Bundesbank was in the market too.

Despite the intervention, the dollar began falling again. It was quoted near its low of 1.4335 at 1530 GMT.

Against the Japanese currency it was quoted at 129.85.

On Tuesday, the Fed acted alone four times to support the currency, while nine central banks joined it to prop up the dollar Monday in the first such concerted action since early last year.

The dollar was hit late last week by the combination of a half percentage point cut in the U.S. key discount rate to six per cent and an increase in two key German rates.

Some dealers said signs of weak U.S. economic performance might prompt a further cut in U.S. interest rates.

IEA raises 1991 oil consumption forecast

PARIS (R) — The West's energy watchdog body, reacting to a sharp drop in crude oil prices since the Gulf war started, has raised its forecast for oil consumption in 1991.

The International Energy Agency's (IEA's) monthly oil market report, published Tuesday, predicted that world consumption outside the former East European trading bloc would average 53.4 million barrels per day (b/d) for the year.

That would mark a 500,000 b/d rise from both the IEA's 1991 projection of a month ago, and the average level of world oil consumption in 1990.

Economists at the Paris-based IEA based their forecasts on an oil price of \$20 a barrel instead of the \$27 price they factored in last month.

The new calculation followed a 50 per cent drop in market prices on the day the war started. Prices have been stuck at around \$20 a barrel since.

The IEA, which has 21 member countries, estimated actual military consumption during the

The National Association of the Pre-School Education is organizing a march for supporting Iraqi children persistence fight

to express the anger and condemnation of Jordan's children against the American aggression.

Therefore the association appeals to fellow teachers, citizens, pre-school, students to participate in this march which will take off from Vocational-Professional Association on Friday at 9:30 towards the U.N. representative office.

The management of the association.

Israel appeals for return of foreign firms

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli business community, hurting from the effects of the Gulf war, appealed Tuesday for the return of foreign customers, airlines and shipping companies that fled before the war erupted.

"Israel is not under siege, and the world should come and do business," Dan Gillerman, president of the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce, told a news conference.

The finance ministry estimates the Israeli economy will take a \$3 billion debit from Aug. 2, when the Gulf crisis started, through Feb. 15.

Other estimates are lower, but they still would mark substantial setbacks for an economy that in 1990 registered 1.6 per cent growth of a gross domestic product of 102 billion shekels (\$51 billion).

Industry ministry officials say most manufacturing sectors have returned to 85 per cent of production levels before fighting started. But the building materials sector is at only half its previous level because most labourers who are Palestinians were under curfew in the occupied territories and unable to report to work.

Especially hard hit, Gillerman said, is the domestic market for consumer durables, which is down at least 70 per cent.

"People are not in the mood to buy," he said.

Low domestic sales are affecting production, and a survey Tuesday in the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper said advertising is down about 70 per cent.

Israel has been hit by about 30

Iraqi missiles since Jan. 18, and civil defence restrictions — no movie screenings, plays or concerts are permitted — have knocked the entertainment industry completely off the economic charts.

Yet, "the Israeli economy proved itself very strong and viable" and ports, airports, banks and foreign trade services all continued to function, claimed Gillerman.

"We want the international business community to resume business with Israel," he said, calling especially for a return of foreign shippers, insurers and airlines.

Only the Israeli El Al airline now has regular flights, as 22 foreign airlines stopped flying to Israel during the buildup to the war.

Gillerman claimed Israel could be "one of the most exciting growth areas in the world" with annual economic growth rates of 10 per cent fuelled by mass immigration, especially from the Soviet Union.

The country is now in economic limbo and the government warns that Iraq still might be able to hit Israel with poison gas.

Many people stop work at 3 p.m. so they can be with their families in the evening, when most missiles fall.

Those lost working hours are calculated into the economic damage Israel has suffered, but some factories compensate by adding shifts on Friday, the eve of the Jewish Sabbath, thus returning to the six-day week.

Lloyd's allows insurance against guerrilla attacks on land during wartime

LONDON (AP) — The Lloyd's of London insurance market confirmed Tuesday it has decided to allow its underwriters to insure against guerrilla attacks on land during wartime, such as the bombings of airline and bank offices.

The decision was made by the market's war committee in the middle of last week, and was effective immediately, said Michael Cockell, chairman of Lloyd's War Committee.

"There's been a feeling of demand for it and I think it is quite large, not least from among energy people," Cockell said, referring to oil platforms and other energy-related facilities.

The underwriters insure against guerrilla attacks on land outside war.

The underwriters will continue to be excluded from covering general damage caused by war on land, under a more than 50-year-old exclusion agreement between the market and British insurance companies.

The exclusion was established after insurers realised during the

Spanish civil war the extent of damage that aerial bombing could inflict.

"This was an area of doubt and this decision is an attempt for us to clarify that area. When there is a war on, there is a question as to whether terrorism and sabotage was caused by war. There was the concern that certain people might use the war exclusion for not responding to a claim. It's that area that worries clients," Cockell said.

The underwriters insure against terrorism against commercial aviation and shipping targets, whether there is a war or not. The market long has specialised in insuring against war risks for planes and ships.

The underwriters will be allowed to expand into the new area as long as it doesn't exceed five per cent of a syndicate's capacity, Lloyd's said.

The new insurance cover will be available in Britain and overseas, with the higher risk properties, clients, and geographical areas commanding higher rates, Lloyd's said.

IEA raises 1991 oil consumption forecast

PARIS (R) — The West's energy watchdog body, reacting to a sharp drop in crude oil prices since the Gulf war started, has raised its forecast for oil consumption in 1991.

The International Energy Agency's (IEA's) monthly oil market report, published Tuesday, predicted that world consumption outside the former East European trading bloc would average 53.4 million barrels per day (b/d) for the year.

That would mark a 500,000 b/d rise from both the IEA's 1991 projection of a month ago, and the average level of world oil consumption in 1990.

Economists at the Paris-based IEA based their forecasts on an oil price of \$20 a barrel instead of the \$27 price they factored in last month.

The new calculation followed a 50 per cent drop in market prices on the day the war started. Prices have been stuck at around \$20 a barrel since.

The IEA, which has 21 member countries, estimated actual military consumption during the

first two weeks of the war at between 500,000 and 700,000 b/d, of which jet aviation fuel made up 80 per cent.

Military demand is expected to average around 300,000 b/d more in the first quarter than in the fourth quarter of 1990, when diplomats were still trying to avert the war. The IEA stressed that the figures were tentative.

But it said demand for crude would fall by about three million barrels per day between first and second quarters of this year.

That estimate points to a looming problem for the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) once winter ends in the northern hemisphere.

OPEC output appeared to be responding to the deteriorating market in January, when production fell 800,000 b/d to 22.9 million from December, the IEA said.

Saudi Arabia and Iran, which both encountered problems shipping oil from the northern Gulf when the war began, each saw output fall 300,000 b/d.

AN INDEPENDENT VILLA WANTED FOR RENT

Furnished or unfurnished, in Al Hummar or Mahla areas or in nearby areas. The villa should have a garden of three to ten dunums area and garage.

For details about your offer please write to P.O. Box 815448, Mr. Hassan Al Hussain, and mention: the rent, the location and your telephone number.

Estonia to go ahead with poll despite Gorbachev's warning

GENEVA (Agencies) — Estonia said Wednesday it was going ahead with a March 3 poll to determine its future despite Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's declaration Tuesday that a similar exercise this week by Lithuania was illegal.

"The referendum in Estonia will be held on March 3 although we are aware that we are on a collision course with the decisions taken yesterday by President Gorbachev," Estonian Foreign Minister Lennart Meri said.

Meri, in Geneva to set out the independence aspirations of the three Baltic states to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, said the Kremlin would activate its propaganda machinery against the Estonian and Lithuanian poll plans.

"We are absolutely sure our peoples have reached a decision to restore full independence," he added. Advance voting began Monday in Lithuania, while Latvia has yet to set a date for its own poll.

Meri said Gorbachev's own referendum to be staged throughout the Soviet Union on March 17 would achieve no result even if the Baltic people voted 100 per cent to leave the Soviet Union.

"That's why the Baltic parliaments were obliged to organise some sort of a preventive referendum," he added.

Lithuania, Georgia and Armenia have also said they have no intention of taking part in the March 17 poll.

"We know that we will be represented to the democratic world not only as nationalists and separatists but also as racists," Meri said.

He praised a number of countries, notably Sweden, which had taken up the Baltic cause with the Human Rights Commission, holding its annual examination of abuse around the world.

Meri said he was seeking support from democratic countries and would press U.N. agencies into sending representatives on fact-finding missions to the Baltic states.

"We would also be very glad to welcome any neutral groups during the referendum," he added.

"But we are very sure that our people have reached a decision to restore the full independence of our occupied state."

Gorbachev, in a new broadcast against Lithuania's pro-independence leaders Tuesday, declared illegal a vote this week to determine how the Baltic republic's people view their future.

Gorbachev issued a decree saying next Saturday's vote was "without legal foundation," TASS news agency said.

But it was not clear whether he intended to halt the vote, described by the republic's leaders as an opinion poll, or merely disregard its results.

Lithuanian President Vyantas Landsbergis, chief architect of the republic's drive to restore its pre-World War II independence, denounced the decree as "impermissible interference."

Gorbachev's decree said the vote sought to exploit tensions in Lithuania, where 13 unarmed civilians died last month when

Soviet troops stormed a television tower in Vilnius.

"With this poll, Lithuania's leaders are trying to generate support for their separatist aims," the decree said.

The poll, expected to show overwhelming support for independence, asks residents of the republic: "Do you agree that the Lithuanian state should be an independent, democratic republic?"

Meanwhile leaders of an embattled separatist movement in the southern Soviet Republic of Georgia appealed Tuesday to Gorbachev to send military patrols there to end weeks of fighting, reports said.

More than 20 people have been killed and an estimated 10,000 have fled South Ossetia, in the western corner of multi-ethnic Georgia, since the republic's parliament nullified South Ossetia's autonomy declaration last month.

Food supplies ran out Tuesday behind barricades set up by South Ossetian militants in Tskhinvali, the region's main city, to keep out Georgia nationalist militiamen, TASS reported. Georgia cut electricity to the region four days ago.

Clashes also have left 180 people injured, including 80 with gunshot wounds, TASS reported. Forty-seven Ossetians reportedly have been taken hostage by Georgians and more are reported missing, TASS said.

It was the worst of several ethnic conflicts in the Soviet Union in recent years. The national evening newscast "Vremya" on Tuesday called the violence the bloodiest on Soviet soil since the infamous siege of Leningrad by German soldiers in 1941-43.

In Moscow, the Communist Party daily Pravda, in a further sign of conservative ascendancy, attacked liberals and radicals Wednesday and called on party members to help restore order in the crumbling Soviet Union.

"It would be criminal and ruinous if we entrusted the future of this great country to people, who, judging by their actions, are unscrupulously gambling with the fate of whole peoples for the sake of their personal political ambition," it said in an unsigned front page editorial.

In recent months Gorbachev has swung sharply to the right in a bid to end the growing political and economic crisis.

This has boosted the morale of conservatives and hardliners, encouraging them to attack their retreating opponents.

"A bloc of so-called democratic parties and movements is forming which openly wants to remove the Communist Party from the political scene, to break society up into hostile camps and split the Soviet Union apart," Pravda said.

Some hardliners say Gorbachev's perestroika reforms have plunged the country into crisis and encouraged the spread of nationalism, especially in the breakaway Baltic republics.

Some troops had already been detected leaving the region.

But the pledge did not refer specifically to the withdrawal of all outside forces. And the ambiguous phrasing left room for troops normally stationed in the restive republics to stay there, along with the "black berets" of the Interior Ministry.

Gorbachev's decree Tuesday that he would ignore the results of the poll Saturday in Lithuania, whatever the outcome, removed much of the glow from last week's pledge.

"We have been given reasons during the Bessmertnykh visit and subsequently that the Soviets were going to return to the path of negotiations," a U.S. official said.

Apart from the pledge, he cited the dispatch of high-level negotiating teams to the Baltics.

But the decree "undercuts the hopes generated by that decision. It shows that Moscow will accept nothing less than total subordination of the Baltics to the Soviet constitution rather than being prepared to finess the legal dispute," the official added.

"It's bad news."

Administration officials were hoping for compromise between the Kremlin's insistence that any move toward autonomy follow the Soviet constitution and a faster procedure preferred by independence leaders.

Lithuania had scheduled the nonbinding vote at the urging of Western government to demonstrate popular support for its independence drive.

The decree was issued less than a month after Soviet troops stormed buildings in Lithuania in a crackdown that left 14 people dead. Five others have been slain in similar attacks in Latvia.

Bush, at a news conference Tuesday, expressed confidence that the Soviet Union "will never go back, no matter what happens, to the totalitarian, closed society days of the cold war."

In a separate development, the New York Times reported Wednesday that the prospect of completing and implementing new U.S.-Soviet arms control agreements has faded as the Soviet military has reasserted its influence in Moscow.

Washington disappointed by Kremlin move on Baltics

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The praise that President George Bush's administration only last week lavished on Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for promising to ease tensions in the Baltic republics is turning sour.

Disappointed administration officials said Tuesday that Gorbachev's decree to ignore the results of an upcoming poll on Lithuania's independence conflicts with the pledge of reconciliation with the republics that Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh brought here from Moscow.

"Whatever positive influence that was having on superpower relations is being vitiated," said a U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity about the impact of Gorbachev's decree.

The pledge that Bessmertnykh conveyed to Bush and Secretary of State James Baker III also called for the removal of troops from the independence-seeking republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

That, too, was viewed as a positive development by the administration. Hoping that Gorbachev would ease pressure on the independence movement, Bush did not mention the Baltic republics in giving reasons last week for postponing a Feb. 11-13 summit meeting with Gorbachev in Moscow.

Some troops had already been detected leaving the region.

But the pledge did not refer specifically to the withdrawal of all outside forces. And the ambiguous phrasing left room for troops normally stationed in the restive republics to stay there, along with the "black berets" of the Interior Ministry.

Gorbachev's decree Tuesday that he would ignore the results of the poll Saturday in Lithuania, whatever the outcome, removed much of the glow from last week's pledge.

"We have been given reasons during the Bessmertnykh visit and subsequently that the Soviets were going to return to the path of negotiations," a U.S. official said.

Apart from the pledge, he cited the dispatch of high-level negotiating teams to the Baltics.

But the decree "undercuts the hopes generated by that decision. It shows that Moscow will accept nothing less than total subordination of the Baltics to the Soviet constitution rather than being prepared to finess the legal dispute," the official added.

"It's bad news."

Administration officials were hoping for compromise between the Kremlin's insistence that any move toward autonomy follow the Soviet constitution and a faster procedure preferred by independence leaders.

Lithuania had scheduled the nonbinding vote at the urging of Western government to demonstrate popular support for its independence drive.

The decree was issued less than a month after Soviet troops stormed buildings in Lithuania in a crackdown that left 14 people dead. Five others have been slain in similar attacks in Latvia.

Bush, at a news conference Tuesday, expressed confidence that the Soviet Union "will never go back, no matter what happens, to the totalitarian, closed society days of the cold war."

In a separate development, the New York Times reported Wednesday that the prospect of completing and implementing new U.S.-Soviet arms control agreements has faded as the Soviet military has reasserted its influence in Moscow.

Kaifu battles for his Gulf aid plan

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's embattled Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, fighting to save his Gulf aid plan, told parliament Wednesday that \$9 billion earmarked for U.S.-led Gulf forces would be used for peaceful, non-military purposes.

Kaifu has not been able to garner strong support for his plan to help coalition forces and send military planes to evacuate refugees from the Gulf war.

Angry opposition party legislators charge that Kaifu's government is blurring the issue — that Japan would be violating its peace constitution if it directly supported a war with money.

"When the money actually goes to a foreign country, what guarantees do we have that the money will not be used to pay for arms," asked opposition legislator Yanosuke Narazaki.

Kaifu replied: "The Gulf Cooperation Council will decide how the money is allocated at the final stage but Japan will make clear its hope that the funds go for non-military purposes."

The Council, made up of Middle East countries, oversees a fund set up last year to channel Japanese non-military aid — to be used to food, transport and drugs — to allied forces.

The prime minister repeatedly said Japan's \$9 billion would benefit "international peace" and fulfil Japan's obligations to the world community.

Narazaki retorted: "The drift of it is that we are in the U.S. camp ... and it's too late to say we're not directly involved (in the Gulf war)."

Opposition parties are enraged by Kaifu's recent announcement that Japan will send military planes to a war zone for the first time since World War II.

Bending to grilling in parliament, Kaifu said Tokyo may not be required to fulfil the other half of its Gulf contribution package.

"We have not yet had an official request from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) for private or military planes," Kaifu said.

"The government's position is to be able to respond if we are requested to do so."

A spokesman in Tokyo for the IOM, which has been arranging flights for refugees from the Middle East, said his office would welcome any offer of planes, military or private.

As legislators boggled over Japan's Gulf war contribution, ruling party officials conceded that prospects looked dim for a deal on the Gulf aid plan with a key opposition party.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has been attempting to negotiate a compromise with the centrist Komeito (Clean Government Party), whose cooperation in parliament is needed to pass tax legislation to raise the \$9 billion.

LDP officials said Wednesday the Komeito was not budging from its demands the government slash defence spending instead of raising taxes.

Nobuo Matsunaga, former Tokyo ambassador to Washington, warned of dire consequences if Japan failed to approve the Gulf aid plan.

"The Kaifu government will demonstrate its inability to govern the country and Japan will lose credibility in the international community," he told a news conference.

Several thousand people, bundled up against the cold and carrying anti-war banners, gathered in Tokyo's central Hibiya Park to protest against Japan's contribution to the Gulf war.

A citizen's group in the western city of Kobe filed a lawsuit against the government Wednesday, charging it with violating the constitution with its plans to send military planes to a war zone.

Indian artillery fire kills 1 in Kashmir, Pakistan says

ISLAMABAD (R) — Indian artillery pounded areas of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, killing one man and wounding seven others, Pakistani military authorities said Wednesday.

A military statement said Pakistani forces retaliated against unprovoked firing throughout Monday night on Shakot and Athnugam areas in the Neelum Valley of Azad (Free) Kashmir.

The official Associated Press of Pakistan news agency, quoting defence sources, said India had been increasingly firing on civilian areas in the Himalayan region, which is divided between the two countries by a U.N.-monitored military control line.

Pakistan accused India of killing two civilians with artillery fire in the same area on Jan. 13.

Tension has been running high in the region since a Muslim separatist campaign in the Indian-ruled sector, Jammu and Kashmir state, flared into open revolt in January last year. More than 2,000 people have died in the uprising, which India accuses Pakistan of fomenting.

Pakistan denies the charge. Life in Pakistan ground to a halt Wednesday in a day of protest against Indian rule in Kashmir, over which the two countries have fought two of their three wars since independence from Britain in 1947.

India rules two-thirds of Kashmir and Pakistan the rest.

Hindus, Muslims to cooperate over disputed Ayodhya shrine

NEW DELHI (R) — Hindu and Muslim leaders agreed Wednesday to cooperate with the Indian government in sorting out a dispute over a holy site that has cost hundreds of lives and helped put two prime ministers out of office.

But it was not clear if the two sides had moved closer to bridging the wide Gulf between them.

Fundamentalist Hindus want a 450-year-old mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya removed to make way for a temple making the reputed birthplace of their god, Lord Rama.

Junior Home (Interior) Minister Subodh Kant Sahay told reporters that after a meeting Wednesday both sides asked the government to verify copies of documents they submitted to back their claims to the site.

They also agreed to provide summaries of reports prepared by their experts and cooperate with the government in providing clarification if needed.

Muslims trying to protect a mosque built by Emperor Babur in 1528 and Hindus claiming the site agreed last month to nominate experts to committees to examine documentary and archaeological evidence.

S. Africa continues abuses — Amnesty

GENEVA (AP) — Human rights violations by South African security forces continued even though the government of F.W. de Klerk had undertaken political reforms, Amnesty International has said.

The human rights group said the alleged abuses, including torture and killing of unarmed civilians, are due to the security forces' lack of judicial accountability.

Amnesty said De Klerk "has taken some initiatives to reduce violations of basic civil and political rights," starting with his speech to parliament last February and including Friday's announcement that the basic apartheid laws will be repealed.

"However, Amnesty International remains concerned that serious human rights violations still occur," Amnesty representative Bacre Ndiaye told the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

At least 18 people died in south African police custody under suspicious circumstances last year, Amnesty said. It said the government ordered an independent judicial inquiry into only one of the cases.

Some police stations, particularly one at Welverdiend, are named repeatedly as places of torture, Amnesty said.

Security forces continued to kill unarmed civilians last year, the group said, citing an incident at Sebokeng in March where police fired on a peaceful demonstration, killing five people and wounding 161.

"The findings of a judicial commission make it apparent that the police violated international standards in this incident," the London-based group said.

Security forces detained more than 1,500 people incommunicado and without charge last year under various emergency regulations. People were arbitrarily detained and jailed for peaceful political activity.

Courts sometimes issued injunctions against the police after receiving evidence of torture or ill treatment of detainees, Amnesty said.

It urged the government to bring laws into line with international human rights standards.

Amnesty said the government's major challenge this year is taking steps to make security forces accountable for their actions, "thereby contributing to the establishment of the rule of law in South Africa."

The statement came during the 43-annual U.N. commission's annual debate on South Africa.

The U.S. anti-apartheid committee Tuesday urged the European community and all other nations to keep economic sanctions on South Africa until a new constitution is adopted.

On Monday, European Community (EC) foreign ministers said they planned to scrap sanctions as soon as South Africa's government formally asks parliament to repeal key apartheid laws.

The U.N. Special Committee Against Apartheid, however, Tuesday said that move would be premature.

The committee chairman, Nigerian Ambassador Ibrahim A. Gambari, said sanctions should be maintained to keep bargaining pressure on Pretoria until the nation adopts a new constitution.

Soviet space station to hit atmosphere today

MOSCOW (R) — The 40-tonne Salyut-7 space station, workhorse of the Soviet space programme for five years, will crash back through the Earth's atmosphere early Thursday morning Moscow time, TASS news agency said.

TASS said the cylindrical Salyut-7 craft, launched in 1982 and abandoned by its last crew four years ago, would enter the lower atmosphere between 0100 GMT and 0830 GMT.

Officials told Soviet newspapers that the bulk of the craft would burn up, but about 250 pieces of various sizes weighing up to two tonnes would hit the ground. Scientists would not know until six hours before impact where the parts will land.

Parts of a U.S. space station crashed to Earth 12 years ago in Australia scattering across 1,700 kilometres of sparsely populated territory.

Salyut-7 boasted a series of crews, ferried to the station by Soyuz spacecraft, until it was abandoned in favour of the larger Mir station. Its occupants included an Indian crew and cosmonauts from the Soviet Union's former East European allies.

In 1978, a Soviet Cosmos satellite broke up over Canada, scattering radioactive debris over a large area. But Salyut has no radioactive elements.

Space officials say the station has a small reserve of fuel that could be used to make minor changes in its approach to the atmosphere, helping it to avoid populated areas in its fall.

A series of crews set up endurance records in the station, part of a study of the possible effects of future long-term space current Mir station who stayed a whole year in space.

2 Filipino army coup leaders arrested

MANILA (AP) — Two prominent leaders of a bloody 1989 coup attempt were arrested Wednesday in what officials called a major setback in efforts to topple President Corason Aquino.

Maj. Abraham Purganan was taken into custody at midday after agents rammed his car on a street in suburban Makati, police said. Purganan surrendered without incident, but a companion fled toward a condominium.

A few hours later, after obtaining a search warrant, agents entered the condominium and arrested former Lt. Col. Victor Batac, allegedly a major figure in the dissident Reform the Armed Forces Movement.

It was unclear whether Batac had been in the car with Purganan or was simply discovered by chance.

Batac, a former Philippine Constabulary officer, and Purganan, a former army scout ranger, were among the best-known leaders of the coup attempt from Dec. 1 to 9 in 1989 that nearly toppled the Aquino government and killed more than 100 people.

Both were also charged with involvement in a coup attempt in August 1987.

Purganan was convicted in absentia by a military court last year in the 1987 attempt and was sentenced to 12 years at hard labour.

Batac and Purganan were at the scene when mutinous Scout Rangers surrendered to government forces after seizing major buildings, hotels and luxury apartment houses during the 1989 coup attempt. But both walked off in the confusion.

Colombia inaugurates constitutional assembly

BOGOTA, Colombia (Agencies) — Colombians, embroiled in bloody guerrilla warfare, turned their attention Tuesday to a constitutional assembly which people hoped would offer a way out of the country's spiral of violence.

The assembly to rewrite Colombia's 104-year-old constitution was inaugurated with opening speeches Tuesday. It is scheduled to finish its task in July.

"Constitutional reform will be an instrument of peace," said the assembly's presidential coordinator, Ricardo Santamaría.

As the assembly's 72 delegates began deliberating, reports came in from the countryside of a massive rebel offensive.

At least 39 policemen, soldiers, rebels and civilians have died in the past 24 hours in a series of guerrilla attacks on government security posts and oil and electric installations, the army said.

"The dramatic and painful acts of recent days are shaking the country and creating an in-

appropriate atmosphere for carrying out this assembly's deliberations," said a statement from the delegates.

Rebels of the National Liberation Army and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia say they are retaliating for the army's capture in early December of a guerrilla command post in the jungles of southern Colombia.

On Monday, the Medellín drug cartel issued a statement saying their recent abductions and killings of two hostages were to protest alleged human rights abuses by the government and to force an end to the policy of extraditing drug traffickers to the United States.

Several delegates already have said they were willing to push through an amendment declaring extraditions unconstitutional.

The assembly has wide powers to reform the constitution, redefining church-state relations, for example, or creating new civil rights.

COLUMN

Good news for people who snore

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — There may be good news at last for people who snore in their sleep and for those who are kept awake by the snoring noise. A snorer, a newspaper reports, said Dr. Bjorn Petruson, a Swedish nose surgeon, claims that a tiny plastic device he spent five years developing can silence even the loudest snorer, the Berlingske Tidende newspaper said. "I worked as a nose surgeon for many years, and by means of surgery you can do a lot to help the snorer, but I thought there must be a simpler way of dealing with the problem," Petruson was quoted as saying. Petruson's invention, called Nozovent, is a springy horseshoe-shaped piece of plastic which is inserted into the nostrils. By expanding the nasal passages it is designed to reduce the annoying sound made as the air rattles through the nose and the open mouth of the sleeper. Between 10 and 20 per cent of all people snore, said Petruson. He tested 15 prototypes before settling on the right design. "Actually, the hardest part was getting used to having it on at night," said Petruson, who says he's not a snorer himself.

Baby delivered in fire-station's driveway

TULSA, Oklahoma (AP) — Capt. Bob Fisher, a firefighter for 23 years, has learned to expect the unexpected. That means this expecting, too. Fisher helped Karen Young deliver a baby girl when the mother was on her way to the hospital and realised she wouldn't make it. She told her boyfriend, Mike Reedy, to stop at a convenience store and call the hospital. "Before I could call, she said, 'never mind, let's just go to that fire station,'" Reedy said. Reedy banged on the door and awoke Fisher. The firefighters set up portable lights in the driveway, and Krystal Elizabeth Downs Michelle Young was born about five minutes later. "I didn't want to have a baby in the car by myself, so I had it in the car with the Fire Department," Ms. Young said. Fisher said the delivery, a first for him, was "by the book and normal." "Whether it's your day on the first day on the department or your last, you never know what's going to happen," Fisher said.

Queen Elizabeth makes \$3.6m a day

LONDON (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth, easily the richest woman in the world, earns millions of dollars a day in interest payments, a British magazine has reported. A Buckingham Palace spokesman described as "grossly exaggerated" the report in Harpers and Queen magazine that the queen stands to earn £1.6 million (\$3.6 million) a day in interest on her personal investments in 1991. The survey said the queen's private income, earned from stocks, private houses and personal possessions including racehorses, rose 25 per cent last year. The magazine estimated her private assets at \$6.6 billion (\$13 billion), putting her at the top of the list of the world's richest women. The queen pays no taxes. Eleven members of the royal family also split £7.9 million (\$15.6 million) a year in government income for staff salaries and operating costs. Crown assets, not the queen's to sell, were left out of the figures.

Walesa earns \$10,860 a year

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — President Lech Walesa earns nearly six times the national average pay — a possible source of envy to his former fellow shipyard workers but still much less than any of his western counterparts, a newspaper said. As the state's highest official, Walesa is entitled to \$10,860 a year. A spokesman for Walesa said that he has decided to forgo his salary and perhaps turn it over to charity, because he can easily make a living on royalties from his autobiography, A Way Of Hope, first published in France in 1987. Gazeta Wyborcza newspaper made public salaries of top state and government officials Monday, as well as parliament deputies and senators. Walesa's basic salary of 8.6 million zlotys a month, although much higher than the national monthly average of 1.5 million zlotys, is worth only \$905. Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, a former private entrepreneur, receives 6.7 million zlotys (\$705), apparently much less than when he was head of a consulting company in Gdansk. Other government members are paid only as much as 1.5 million zlotys (\$121-\$26) a month.